



法のともしび LIGHT OF THE DHARMA

New Year's Greeting

NOTICE TO MEMBERS:

Our services are also live on ZOOM.
Please contact Sensei for links.

REGULAR SCHEDULE

ENGLISH SERVICES

Sundays 10:30am

JAPANESE SERVICES

Sundays 11:30am

JAPANESE PLAYGROUP

Takarajima Tuesdays 10-12

SEIZA MEDITATION

Thursdays 7:30pm

MORNING MEDITATION

Fridays 10:00am

SPECIAL EVENTS

Thursday January 1st 10:30am

New Year's Day Service

Sunday January 4th 10:30am

Shotsuki Service

Monday January 12th 7:00pm

Board Meeting

Saturday January 17th 3:00pm

Public Lecture by Prof.J. Wilson

Sunday January 18th 10:00am

Dharma School

Sunday January 18th 10:30am

Hoonko Service

Sunday January 25th 1:00pm

Fujinkai Semi Annual AGM

At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to you all.

In recent years, starting with Japan, but also throughout the world there have been a rash of natural disasters such as typhoons, torrential rains, earthquakes, and large-scale forest fires which has created enormous damage. I would like to convey my deepest condolences to those who lost their lives through natural disasters and express my sympathy to everyone affected. My wish is for all who are affected to be able to return to peaceful daily lives as soon as possible.

Last year, we marked a milestone as it was 80 years since the end of WWII. In July, I had the opportunity to join memorial services in Okinawa, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki, areas that were deeply affected by the war. I was grateful to have been able to meet with some of the survivors of the war and to hear their stories. In 1995, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the end of WWII and the memorial to remember those who lost their lives during the war, Sokunyo Monshu stated, "Prior to the beginning of the war, going against the teachings of Shinran Shonin, the Hongwanji using the name of the Buddha Dharma, took an active role in promoting Japan's war efforts. This is a fact we cannot deny, and in the presence of Amida Buddha, I cannot but to express my regret and shame." With these words, Sokunyo Monshu took responsibility for actions done by the Hongwanji organization prior to WWII. Keeping these sentiments firmly in my heart, I would like to go forward by rededicating our pursuit for peace.

Following the conclusion of WWII, the Hongwanji Organization did not shy away from admitting their active role in promoting the war effort. With humility and repentance, it has strived to create a society where all beings can live in peace. With sincerity in our hearts, we must continue to strive for peace and not repeat the errors that were committed in WWII. Presently, there are wars and conflicts ongoing in various regions throughout the world, where countless precious lives are being threatened. In such a world, let us be mindful of the words of Shinran Shonin, "Let there be Peace in the world, and let the Buddha Dharma grow". Together, let us move forward day by day.

January 1, 2026

OHTANI Kojun

Monshu

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha



New Year's Message

As we welcome in year 2026, may I begin by wishing you a very Happy New Year!

During this time of the year, it is common for us to look ahead and see what may lie in store for the future. In just a couple of years, we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Steveston Buddhist Temple. What a momentous celebration it will be.

Leading up to the special year, we have already started on some key Centennial projects including the erection of the Sanmon Gate, the creation of the new Nokotsudo memorial plaque that was unveiled in 2025, and the creation of the Pet Memorial Cemetery. <continued on P. 3>



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.



BOARD NOTES

Well 2025 has zipped by and here we are ringing in 2026...Happy New Year everyone! The SBT board remains dedicated in serving our temple sangha and the broader Steveston-Richmond & lower mainland community with enthusiasm and optimism as we enter the 98th year of the Steveston Buddhist Temple. Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu!

Here are highlights from our December 8th Board meeting:

- We finalized the hiring of an additional office assistant, Ikumi Soma who will work part-time assisting Keiko, the office and Reverend Grant with the ever busy temple schedule. The board also approved adapting the cozy office to fit a work station for Ikumi. Welcome Ikumi san!
- We reviewed the “Are You Prepared - Rite of Passage” workshop on Nov. 22nd presented by Rev. Grant & the Richmond Funeral Home which was very well attended, an indication of how much interest there is in this issue. As a result this presentation will appear again. Stay tuned.
- We also looked back on the Ministers Appreciation Potluck Lunch on Nov. 30th and shared how warm and receptive it was to share with each other such delicious home cooked dishes - comfort food for sure! The gathering was also an opportunity to collectively acknowledge the exclusive privilege we at SBT benefit from our sensei's Grant and Roy. Namo Amida Butsu.



Appreciating our ministers while enjoying some gochiso.

- Our Mochitsuki, on Dec. 6 and Bonenkai Year-end party on Dec. 7 both took place 2 days before the Dec. board meeting so we were still glowing and covered in rice flour from those 2 special year-end events at the meeting. Congratulations to the master mochi makers, and to Alan Kaita for championing the blind cosmetics beauty



Everyone is focused on Bonenkai Bingo

competition. He looked absolutely stunning...in bright red lipstick...alot of it...all over his face.

- We planned the February in-person meeting which will focus on long term strategic planning for SBT to refer to in the coming decade. We plan to have guidelines on this matter by mid 2026.
- Wisteria Place & Optima Living management invited SBT board members to make an appearance at the Wisteria Place Christmas luncheon on Sun. Dec. 21st. Thank you to Optima Living and GM Elena for the thoughtful gesture. What a wonderful occasion to celebrate the holiday season and end of 2025.



Board members & staff had a great time at the Wisteria luncheon

- A quick note that there are Japanese international high school student volunteers helping out at temple events. Thank you to Luke and others for your helpful, generous assistance. We really appreciate you.

in gassho, *Doug* on behalf of the SBT board

If you have suggestions for the temple, please feel free to share them with Reverend Grant or any Board member. We are very open and interested in any/all input!



Mochi makers on your mark, get set...

<Sensei from P.1>

Some upcoming projects include working on a new seitenservice book to replace the purple seitenservice books that we are presently using. The purple service books have served us well as they have lasted close to 35 years, but they are running their course and need to be replaced with something new.

Another major project is the updating of the history of the temple. It has been over ten years since the History book was first published in 2012. Since then, the temple has undertaken some major changes, none more so than the building of the Wisteria Place Senior Housing development just to the south of the temple. The development of the temple during this period rivals any ten-year span throughout our history and needs to be recorded for the future.

As you can see, we have some major projects in the works. However, just as exciting as these projects are, we have many more events being planned for this coming year and it all begins with the Hoonko weekend later this month on January 17th and 18th. Hoonko is the most important service for Jodo Shinshu followers as it is a memorial to commemorate the founder of Jodo Shinshu, Shinran Shonin.

We are very happy and honored to have joining us this year, Prof. Jeff Wilson from the University of Waterloo where he teaches Buddhism in religious studies. Jeff Sensei is also an assistant minister at the Toronto Buddhist Church and the Hamilton Buddhist Temple.

As part of the weekend, Jeff Sensei will be giving a special public lecture on Saturday, January 17th at 3:00 pm. His talk is entitled, "The Inclusivity of the Nembutsu Way". It is such a timely and important talk, and I know you will not want to miss this lecture. We will be holding it both in person as well as on zoom so I hope you will make the effort to join us.

Speaking of inclusivity, over the course of the past couple of years, we have strived to promote activities to welcome people into the temple, and we are seeing positive results as more and more people are coming out to participate in our activities. I have mentioned before that when the three treasures of the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha come together there is a harmony that comes about. In a world that is getting more chaotic by the day, the temple is a small corner of the world where one can find peace and harmony. There is a special vibe that is being created, and I hope you will join us throughout the coming year.

I am looking forward to another year of the Nembutsu teachings, receiving the Dharma together with all of you.

In Gassho,
Rev. Grant Ikuta

Hoonko 2026

Please join us in honoring our founder, Shinran Shonin with the Hoonko Weekend on January 17th and 18th, 2026.

We are honored to have Dr. Jeff Wilson from the Waterloo University as our special guest minister for the weekend. Dr. Wilson received his

Tokudo Ordination from the Nishi Hongwanji Temple in 2012 and has been serving as a Minister's Assistant for the Toronto Buddhist Church and the Hamilton Buddhist Temple.

Dr. Wilson will be giving a special public lecture on Saturday, January 17th at 3:00 pm. The title for his talk is, "The Inclusivity of the Nembutsu Way".

The Hoonko Service will be held on Sunday, January 18th, 2026, with the Dharma School service starting at 10:00 am, and the adult Hoonko service at 10:30am.



Following the service, we will have the Ho-onko Luncheon together with the New Year's Party. Bento will be ordered for a nominal fee of \$10 per person. Please contact the Temple Office by Sunday, January 11th to order your bento. We hope to see you at the most important service for Jodo Shinshu Buddhists.

2026年報恩講法要

2026年1月17日・18日に報恩講法要を開催します。特別講師として、ウォータールー大学のジェフ・ウィルソン博士をお迎えできることを光栄に思います。ウィルソン博士は2012年に西本願寺より得度を受け、現在は大学の教授をしながらトロント仏教会およびハミルトン仏教会の開教使補として務めています。1月17日土曜日の午後3時に特別講演を行っていただきます。講演のタイトルは「念仏の包摂性」です。

報恩講法要是1月18日(日)に行われ、日曜学校のお参りが午前10時、そして大人のお参りは午前10時30分から始まります。

法要の後は、報恩講ランチと兼ねて新年会を開催いたします。新年会の参加費はお一人\$10となっていますので、参加希望の方はお寺の事務所に1月11日(日)までに予約を入れてください。宜しくお願い致します。

An Appreciation - A Mirror of My Heart



Happy New Year, Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu Kotoshi mo Yoroshiku Onegaishimasu. I wish to extend to you all the very best in 2026. Personally, this is a special year for me - turning 90. The past 89 years have been very good years. Indeed I have had my struggles, hardships and pain during these years but thankfully here I am today doing well. Okagesamade Ogenki desu.

As I turn the page into the New Year, it is very timely for me to express my appreciation to Rev. Grant for allowing me to carry on as his Assistant and to the Temple Board for their support. Recalling the time spent in my role as an assistant, I was surprised that it has been twenty five years having served under Reverends Masumi Kikuchi, Nariyuki Hattori and Yasuo Izumi in Steveston and for a period of two years assisting Bishop Orai Fujikawa with the Vancouver Temple. It has indeed been very special in spreading the Buddha Dharma to the followers and friends.

Also, it is very timely for me to extend special thanks to the "Fujinkai" for their special luncheon on November 30, 2025 in recognition of the ministers' contribution to the life of the Steveston temple. As I had stated at the special luncheon, I would like to express the same to all Fujinkai members who were unable to attend.

I have entitled this article, An Appreciation - A Mirror of My Heart, because I believe that Appreciation goes two ways. I have a favorite phrase which I often reiterate - I am here because you are here. This phrase strikes me personally because of the deep bond and mutual existence between each other and the motivation to be supportive of each other. There are many past and present experiences that have brought me to the realization of these words.

My memories go back to 1952 when my family returned to Steveston. It was in September of that year in the Fishermen's Hall on Third Avenue when I was asked by Rev. Shinjo Ikuta to chair the first Dharma service. It was from then that I began to take an active role with temple activities under the encouragement of Rev. Ikuta and my parents. This continued into 1956 when the temple was established on Chatham Street. (The attached photo represents those who were active with the Dharma School in 1956; some of the readers may recognize themselves or others). And, it was in this temple on October 8, 1960, I was married to Itoko.

It was in the early 1960's, I was very much engaged in the purchase and transition to the present location - the Garry Street site. And, as time went on, I became



the President and thereafter was elected to the presidency of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC), the national organisation. And, presently, I am grateful I am able to be active at our temple. Would I have been able to assume these roles if it were not for the collective effort of everyone?

I believe it is the practice of recognising the causes and conditions and the inter-connectedness of the countless numbers of people, past and present, both direct and indirect that have brought me here. It is to them that I owe a debt of gratitude and it is to them that I wish to express my appreciation. Indeed the expression of appreciation goes two ways.

These words from the Larger Sutra of Infinite Life - Verses in Praise of Buddha, aptly describe my feelings about An Appreciation : A Mirror of My Heart:

*"Even if I should be subjected to
All kinds of suffering and torment.
Continuing my practice undeterred,
I would endure it and never have any regrets.*

In Gassho,
Roy Akune

感謝—私の心の鏡

新年明けましておめでとうございます。今年もよろしくお願ひいたします。2026年が皆様にとって素晴らしい年となることをお祈りします。個人的には、今年は私にとって90歳になる特別な年（傘寿）です。過去の89年はとても良かったです。実際には苦難や困難、痛みもありましたが、ありがたいことに今日こうして、お陰さまで元気にしております。

新年を迎えて、こうして開教使の補佐を務めさせていただいていることをグラント先生に感謝すると共に、役員会のご支援にも感謝しております。開教使補佐という私の役割を振り返ってみるとスティーブ斯顿仏教会では25年間、釋氏真澄先生、服部成之先生、泉康雄先生に、バンクーバー仏教会では2年間、カナダ開教区の開教使総長の不二川往来先生にお仕えしてきたことに驚きました。仏陀のみ教えをご門徒の方々や友人達に広めることは、実に大変特別なことでした。

また11月30日に、これまで開教使達がスティーブ斯顿仏教会の維持発展のため一生懸命貢献してきたことをねぎらって、婦人会が特別な昼食会を用意してくださったことを心から感謝します。その時述べた同じ感謝の気持ちを、当日欠席された婦人会の方々にもお伝えします。

私は「感謝—私の心の鏡」という題をこの記事につけました。それは、感謝というものは相互両方向に行くと信じているからです。私がしばしば繰り返し口にする「あなたがここにいるから私がここにいる」というお気に入りの句があります。この句は、私達それが互いに深い絆の中で支え合って生きていいくことを促す存在だということを伝えていて、私の心を打ちます。過去と現在の多くの経験を通して、私はこの言葉のもつ深い意味に気づきました。

私の思い出は、私の家族がスティーブ斯顿に戻って

FUJINKAI NEWS

Jeanne Ryan



きた1952年にさかのぼります。その年の9月に3番アヴェニューのフィッシャーマンズホールで生田真成先生から、最初の法要の司会をするように頼まれました。以来、生田先生と私の両親の励ましのもと、私はお寺の活動で活発な役割を担うようになりました。このことは、お寺が1956年にチャタムストリートに設立されるまで続きました。（添付の写真には、当時ダルマスクールで活発だった方々が写っています。読者の何人かはご自分あるいはあの人達だと気づくでしょう。）そして1960年10月8日にこのお寺で、私は弟子と結婚式を挙げました。

1960年代初め、私は現在のギャリーストリートのお寺の場所の購入とそこへの移転に深く従事しました。時がたつにつれて、私は全国組織である淨土真宗カナダ教団の理事長となり、それ以降は理事長職に選出されました。そして現在、私は私達のお寺で元気に活動でできていることをありがたく思っています。もし皆様方のご尽力がなかったら、果たして私はこれらの役割を務めることができたでしょうか。

それは、さまざまご縁、過去、現在、直接、間接の数えきれない方々との繋がりによって私がここにいるのだということに気づかせていただく修行なのだと私は信じます。私はそのたくさんの方々に対して感謝の負債を負っています。その方々への感謝の気持ちを表明したいと思います。感謝の表明は実に相互両方向に行くのです。

大無量寿経の讃仏偈の次の言葉は、「感謝—私の心の鏡」の私の気持ちを適切に述べています。

「たとえどんな苦難にこの身を沈めても、さとりを求めて耐え忍び、修行に励んで決して悔いることはない。」（聖典現代語訳21頁）

合掌 阿久根ロイ

On Sun. November 30th 50 Temple members and non-members joined to celebrate Rev. Grant Ikuta and Assistant Minister Roy Akune with the Minister's

Appreciation pot luck lunch. We enjoyed and appreciated all the delicious and variety of lunch and dessert items.

December started off busy with mochitsuki and the making of mochi manju on Dec. 5&6. Many Temple members joined the occasion as the volunteers. Mochi manju were sold along with karinto on shotsuki/Bodhi service on Sun. Dec. 7. Gifts of kagami mochi was also made and packaged for those attending the Bonenkai lunch on Dec. 7 following the service. The lunch was catered by Yvonne Nakano whose meals are always delicious. Our thanks to all those who helped with the lunch to serve food and drinks, participated in the entertainment and helped with the clean-up afterwards.

Temple clean-up was on Sun. Dec. 14. The volunteers were all organized and worked diligently on dusting, washing and cleaning windows, the pews, lights and doors. The Fujinkai cleaned the kitchen areas and the cupboards and made lunch which was enjoyed by everyone. We are truly grateful to each person who was able to come and assist.

The Fujinkai AGM will take place on Sun. January 25, 2026 at 1:00 pm. For those interested in the Fujinkai and able to attend, please join us at this meeting and mark this date on your calendar.

January 2026 MEMORIAL SERVICE (Please bring your "Homyo")

Akune, Nariyoshi Hirose, Asako Kuramoto, Kunji Nakamura, Fujie Sakata, Myrna Tanaka, Hitoshi
Arima, Janet Setsuko Hirota, Naokichi Kuramoto, Miyako Nevis Tabata, Seiji Marcus Sakiyama, Kumataro Tanaka, Yoneharu
Asari, Kikue Inouye, Ray Matsubara, Chiyoko Nishi, Isao 'Wes' Sakiyama, Mume Tani, Ichino
Domae, Hisajiro Inouye, Tomi Matsuo, Diane Chieko Nishi, Minoru Sameshima, Toshiharu Tarumoto, Hamasaburo
Domai, Nobuo Ishida, Chotaro Matsuo, Shizue Nishi, Toyo Sameshima, Toshiyuki Teraguchi, Mosaburo
Hamada, Reiji Iwata, Hisaye Morimoto, Nobuko Nishii, Noboru Sano, Shizuko Tsukijima, Eiji
Hamade, Tsutomu Kawase, Tadayoshi Morishita, Hirako Niwatsukino, Hiroshi Sato, Keizo Uyeno, Casey
Hamade, Unosuke Kimura, Hisashi Murakami, Atsushi Nomura, Sakie Shimizu, Tamotsu Uyeyama, Soichi
Hamaguchi, Choichiro Kitamura, Michiko Mukai, Sadako Oye, Kazue Shiyoji, Mieko Uyeyama, Yoshie
Harada, Akiko Kobayashi, Genwo Murao, Kenji Oye, Koyo Suga, Takako Yamamoto, Kazumi
Harada, Eikichi Kobayashi, Noriyo Nakano, Minako Ono, Harue Takasaki, Hisako Yamashita, Teruo
Harada, Shigeru Jack Kojima, Tamino Nakano, Yasuo Otabe, Tsuyoshi Takasaki, Sonoko Yesaki, Masami
Hayashi, Mitsue Kondo, Chieko Nakata, Makio Sakamoto, Mamoru Takeuchi, Shigeyoshi Yesaki, Suyeko, Suzy
Hayashida, Augustina Koyanagi, Mitsuo Nakata, Yasuhiko Sakata, Meri Tanaka, Emiko
Akizuki, Osamu Kariya, Yukio Morishita, Kimiyo Nishihama, Yoshiko Sakai, Hayao Tasaka, Yukio
Akune, Shizuka Kawabata, Hiroshi Morizawa, Shigeo Nishii, Iyo Sakamoto, Nancy Tomihiro, Yoshihiro 'Doc'
Araki, Merv Masato Kawabata, Yonekichi Murakami, Fumie Nishii, Larry Natsue Toyoda, Yoshinobu
Domae, Iwao Kimura, Shinkichi Murao, Toshimi Nomura, Junichi Shinde, Kumiko Tsumura, Yasue
Harada, Satoru Kishi, Yoichi Nagasawa, Mary Nomura, Tsutaye Suzuki, Masao Uchida, Shiro
Haya, Nobby Kitsuda, Nana Nakano, Yasuno Ogawa, Etsuko Tabata, Susumu Uyeda, Masako
Higo, Haruko (Ruby) Kokubo, Hideo Nakata, Kiku Ogawa, Mifune 'Miffy' Takasaki, Yukihiro Wakita, Sajiro
Higo, Miteru Kuwabara, Seiya Nakatsu, Yoshiko Ohara, Takashi Takashita, Nobuo Yamamoto, Carole Toyomi
Hori, Tome Maeda, Sachiko Nishi, Hideko Ohara, Yoichi Tamaki, Sunao Yasui, Tsuyu
Ikari, Rokumatsu Maruyama, Takao Nishi, Kunio Okano, Haruo Tamaki, Tsurue Yasui, Ukiyoshi
Kariya, Iwao Miyazaki, Kiyoko Nishi, Masahiko Oyama, Fujiyo Tanaka, Yonekichi Yesaki, Shiro
Kariya, Yasushi George Miyazaki, Takeo Nishi, Senkichi Ozeki, Tomi Tasaka, Jennifer
Kariya, Yone Mori, Rihe Nishi, Shizuko Saito, Toshimi Tasaka, Kuniko

February 2026 MEMORIAL SERVICE (Please bring your "Homyo")

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

DONATIONS & Memberships

The Steveston Buddhist Temple sincerely appreciates and thanks the following for their generous donations: All donations deposited after December 22, 2025, will be announced in the next newsletter. Any donations with notations stating that they are in the 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.

最近一年を通し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か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 (\$7,450): Akune Roy & Itoko, Akune Ted & Rose, Anzai June, Araki Linda, Chow Nobu & Suezone, Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple, Hamaura Masako, Hashimoto Junichi, Hirano Chiyoko, Hirose Mary, Ikuta Kuni & June, King Hiroko, Martin Michael, Matsushita Nobuko, Morizawa Sazare, Mukai Akiko, Nakatsuru Sherry, Niguma Kazuko, Rennie John, Ryan Larry & Jeanne, Sakamoto Bud, Segue Michiko, Setterstrom Amy, Stevens Annette, Stillwell Peter & Masako, Takeya Sushi, Toyoda Miyuki, Tsumura Takumi, Vertue Vincent & Susie, Watanabe Keiko, Watanabe Sachiko, Whittier Maya, Yamamoto Yoshimitsu, Yazawa Chiharu, Yoneda Kaz, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko, Anonymous

Dharma School Donation: Araki Linda, Luo Xing, Miura Renako

753 Service: Laird Jaus, Luo Xing, Shimodaira Takeshi, Yamamoto Mami
Bonenkai Donation (\$235): Akune Roy & Itoko, Hama Helen, Kaita Hiroko, Kurita Yoshie, Sakai Marge, Whittier Maya

Najin Flower Donation (\$250): Ikuta Kuni & June, King Hiroko

December Shotsuki Donation (\$3,405): Akune Roy & Itoko, Clayton Laura, Doi Peter & Louise, Esson Karen, Gallop Fred & Haruko, Hama Helen, Hamade Naomi & Family, Hamanishi Etsuko, Hamaura Dean, Hamaura Misaye, Higo Kelvin, Hirose Mary, Holmes Ruby & Tkachuk David, Hori Glenn & Gail, Ichiiwa Ken & Bea, Ikuta Kuni & June, John Annie, Kakehi Tomoko, Kamikura Roger & Joyce, Kariya Florence, Kondo Kaoru, Kuramoto Isao & Ina, Lum Hitomi, Maede Judith, Maruno Maya, Matsuo Ken & Akiko, Matsuo Mike & Shelley, McLean Jenny & Duncan, Miller Karen, Mukai Dianne, Mukai Kathleen & Henry, Mukai Sadao & Shioko, Mukai Tom, Murray Gloria, Nakano Alison, Niguma Kazuko, Nishikihama Calvin, Nishikihama Karen, Nitta Jeffrey, Niwatsukino Clifford, Niwatsukino Janis, Niwatsukino Yumi, O'Sullivan Linda, Ryan Larry & Jeanne, Sakai Marge, Sakai Mitsuka, Sakai Sharon, Sakai Tomiko, Sakai Tracey, Sakai-Boden Lynn, Sakamoto Bud, Sakamoto-Singh Crystal, Sakata Hozumi, Sakata Sachiko, Sakiyama Butch & Marilyn, Sakiyama Liz, Sakurai Tommy & Naomi, Setterstrom Amy, Suzuki Kent, Takahashi Kei, Takasaki Laura, Takasaki Sheila, Teraguchi Jean, Terencio Shinko, Thomas Joy, Tsumura Elaine & Takumi, Tubajon Paul & Julie, Yesaki Arthur, Yesaki Mitsuo, Yesaki Tom, Yokota Amy, Yokota Carl, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko, Anonymous

Major Services (\$1,210):

Joya-e: Matsumura Laverne, Murao Tazuko, Nishi Kayoko, Sakamoto Alan & Cathy, Ward Ryoko

Jodo-e: Akune Ted & Rose, Chow Nobu & Suezone, Domai Kyosuke, King Hiroko, Kurita Yoshie, Quan Toshiko, Suyama Eiji & Caroline,

Eitaikyo: Akune Roy & Itoko, Ikuta Denise, Ikuta Kevin & Karen, Ikuta Kuni & June, Kawabata Mitsuyo, Kawabata Jack, Murakami Lori, Murao Tazuko, Niguma Kazuko, Nishi Chizuko, Nishi Kayoko, Sakai Marge, Sakai Tomiko, Sakamoto Alan & Cathy, Tani Kiyoshi & Mutsumi, Ward Ryoko

Nehan-e: Tabata Tosh

JSBTC Donation (\$310): Akune Roy & Itoko, Ikuta Kuni & June, Inouye Emiko, Nishi Kayoko, Sakai Marge, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko

Funerals & Memorial Services (\$2,390):

In memory of the late:

Susie Koyanagi: Asai Sachiko, Kagawa Byron, Matsumura Laverne, Nishi Kayoko, Takasaki Mayumi, Tasaka Kaz & Chic, Tomihiro Masako

Takeshi Yamaguchi: Yamaguchi Virginia

Midori Mizuguchi: Sakai Marge, Okabe Mary, Oye Hanako

Kaz Teramura: Yamashita Tam

Betty Niwatsukino: Tomihiro Masako

Doc Tomihiro: Tomihiro Masako

Tobei Teraguchi: Teraguchi Lorne, Teraguchi June, Miller Karen, Charney Teraguchi Irene

Harding & Toshie Yasui: Davies Laureen

Bentley Davies: Davies Laureen

Margaret Matsumura: Davies Laureen

Akune Family memorial service: Akune Roy & Itoko

1st year memorial of the late Daisy Araki: Hamaura Misaye

3rd year memorial of the late Terry Wu: Yamamoto Mami

4th year memorial of the late sister-in-law Kyoko Niwatsukino: Tomihiro Kazuko

30 year memorial of the late mother Ume Niwatsukino: Tomihiro Kazuko

Fujinkai Donation (\$600):

General: Kondo family, Matsumura Laverne, Murakami Lori

Eshinniko: Akune Roy & Itoko, Hamaura Misaye, Ikuta Kuni & June, Kawamoto Tobo & Hiroko, Niiguma Kazuko, Nishi Kayoko, Ryan Larry & Jeanne, Takeuchi Ken & Sachiko, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko

Membership 2025/2026 paid: Randall Armstrong, Cameron-Hirose Lisa, Domai Kyosuke, Fee Peter, Ikuta Denise, Kasbekar Durgesh, Nakata Brent & Jennifer, Phillips Kim, Sakamoto Bud

LET'S DUST! LET'S WASH OFF THE DIRT

We sweep the dust to remove our worldly desires; we scrub the dirt to free ourselves of worldly attachments.

On Sunday, December 14, the temple held their annual Oosouji - the Big Cleaning. It was indeed a pleasure to see forty (40) including members, friends and students in attendance. Some showed up before 9:00 and some stayed till 3:00 in the afternoon.

Some may think this cleaning is routine whereby it means the general day-to-day tidying - dusting the shelves, sweeping and mopping the floor, etc. Oosouji, the Big Cleaning, on the other hand, is intensive and much more thorough. It involves the cleaning of the entire temple. The brass flower vases and the incense burner are polished. The Gohonzon, the statue of the Buddha, is dusted. Our windows are now glistening. Unknown to many, the storage room is organized. There are so many hidden areas to attend to. And, let us not forget the Fujinkai ladies who organized the coffee break and prepared the scrumptious lunch of gohan, chowmein, sunomono and nishime.

Did you know that the Big Cleaning is rooted in the religious belief wherein the practice is also a way of cleaning and purifying one's mind and heart? The Buddha in one of his discourses stated, "brush off the dust around oneself and wash off the dirt in your mind." To paraphrase his words he meant, "remove the temptations of one's ego manifested in greed, anger and ignorance."

From another perspective one can observe a sharing of duties, the communicating of tasks, and the development of friendship among the helpers. It is this joint coming togetherness - joyfully and enthusiastically, cleaning and supporting each other. This is Harmony and the development of a strong Sangha which is the epitome of the Oosouji - the Big Cleaning.

These words of Rev. Shoukei Matsumoto, in the text, A

Monk's Guide to a Clean House and Mind, says it well. "The bonds you have with your friends and family are the foundation of a healthy mind.... Doing the Big Cleaning, as an annual event, will strengthen and deepen the bonds among us."

This year's Oosouji is a strong evidence of the bonding taking place. Indeed, we are very grateful to the members and friends and students who took the time on Sunday to attend this major event. They are maintaining this wonderfully significant tradition of coming together and exemplifying the common purpose of Removing the Dust and Washing off the Dirt.

In Gassho,
Roy Akune



Fun moments at the 2025 Bonenkai!



Moe No Kai

Keiko Go

Happy New Year!

Thank you all for your hard work with the musical performance and choir at the Year-end party. Many thanks to Moko san for playing the piano, and to our volunteer, Keiko-san, for leading our team. We set up a special table for the Moe no Kai, which allowed even more people to participate in the performance. Let's continue to challenge ourselves with many different activities. We are having our New Year's party this month. It will be held a little later than usual, starting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 29th. Let's play games, enjoy delicious food, and laugh a lot. Stay healthy and well, everyone.

We look forward to having you on the 29th.



Dharma School Year End Party

Linda Araki

Sunday, December 21st was the final Dharma School for 2025.

Rev. Grant shared a Kasajizo story which Renako bought from Japan. The story showed the importance of being nice to all.

Shelley talked about the many celebrations which take place in December. The children played the dreidel game, then cut and decorated a poster showing the different light celebrations.

We ended the day with pizza, desserts, and juice. We now look forward to our next Dharma school in the new year!





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New Year's Greeting from the Office of the Bishop



As we step into 2026, I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to you and to the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist community in Canada. May this year be filled with peace, harmony, and the radiant light of Amida Buddha's compassion.

In these times of challenge and change, the teachings of Jodo Shinshu continue to guide and inspire us, reminding us of the impermanence of all things and the boundless compassion of the

Buddha's vow. May we walk together on the path of wisdom and mindfulness, finding solace in the Nembutsu and deepen our understanding of interconnectedness.

I am deeply grateful for your support of your Senseis and the dedication you show to nurturing spiritual growth and fostering unity within the Sangha. May our efforts continue to bring comfort, joy, and gratitude to all those you serve. Wishing you a fulfilling New Year, filled with peace, health, and compassion.

In gassho,

Rev. Tatsuya Aoki

Bishop, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada



JSTC AGM in Toronto—April 2025

Would you like to receive your own copy of Dharma Light?

Send an e-mail to: events@steveston-temple.ca and ask to be added to our mailing list.
(All members automatically receive a copy via e-mail, hand delivery or Canada Post.)

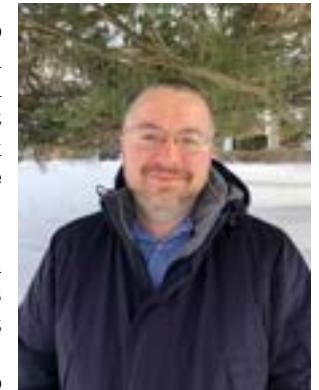
MEMBERSHIP: If you would like to become a member, please come to the office and complete the membership form.

Join the Sangha and spread the Dharma

Hoonko Public Lecture 2026

As part of the Hoonko weekend, Dr. Jeff Wilson will be giving a public lecture on Saturday, January 17th at 3:00 pm. The title for his talk will be "The Inclusivity of the Nembutsu Way".

Dr. Jeff Wilson is a professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies at Renison University College, at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. Dr. Wilson received Tokudo Ministerial Ordination at Nishi Hongwanji in 2012 and serves as a minister's assistant for the Toronto Buddhist Church and Hamilton Buddhist Temple. His most recent book is "Living Nembutsu: Applying Shinran's Radically Engaged Buddhism in Life and Society."



Jeff Sensei states, "The Pure Land tradition of Jodo Shinshu is the most inclusive form of Buddhism. My talk will explore why that is and how this inclusivity has manifested in both the Japanese past and the Canadian present, with particular attention to women, the poor, and LGBTQ+ people." Central topics will be Amida Buddha's vows, the nembutsu, and how temples can take concrete steps to live up to the vision of welcoming and affirming that is embodied in the Pure Land.

Dr. Wilson's talk will be most engaging and one you will not want to miss out on. Mark the date in your calendar and join us for an informative and engaging afternoon of the Dharma.

2026年報恩講特別講演会

2026年1月17日（土）の午後3時よりWaterloo大学教授のJeff Wilson博士が英語で「念佛の包摂性」について講演会を行われます。Wilson先生は2012年に西本願寺で得度を受けて、現在は大学で教えながらトロント仏教会の開教使補として勤めています。

2026年 年頭の辞

新しい年を迎えるにあたり、ご挨拶申し上げます。

まず、近年、日本をはじめ世界各地で台風や豪雨、地震などの自然災害や大規模な山火事などが頻繁に発生し、甚大な被害がもたらされています。犠牲となられた方々に謹んで哀悼の意を表しますとともに、被災された皆さまに心からお見舞い申し上げます。皆さまが一日も早く、平穏な日常を取り戻されますことを心から願っておられます。

さて、昨年は第二次世界大戦の終戦から80年という節目の年でした。私は7月に、この戦争で筆舌に尽くしがたい惨禍がもたらされた沖縄・広島・長崎の追悼法要のご縁をいただき、戦争体験者の方々のお話を聞かせていたただく尊い機会を得ました。そして、平成7年・1995年の「終戦50周年全戦没者追悼法要」における、「宗祖の教えに背き、仏法の名において戦争に積極的に協力していった過去の事実を、仏祖の御前に慚愧せずにほれません」との教団の戦争責任にかかる即如門主のお言葉を改めて心に刻み、これからも歩んでいく決意を新たにいたしました。

戦後の教団の歩みは、戦争に積極的に協力・加担した事実から目をそらさず、その反省を踏まえ、誰もが心豊かに生きられる平和な社会の実現を目指すことから始まりました。私たちは、その事実と真摯に向き合い、決して同じ過ちを繰り返してはなりません。現在も世界各地で戦争や紛争は続いているおり、多くの尊い命が脅かされています。そのような中にあって、宗祖親鸞聖人の「世のなか安穏なれ、仏法ひろまれ」との願いを常に心に留めて、日々の歩みを進めてまいりましょう。

浄土真宗本願寺派
門主 大谷光淳



法のともしび



総長より新年のご挨拶

旧年中は大変お世話になりました。カナダ開教区を代表して、謹んで御礼と新春のお慶び申し上げます。

今年も阿弥陀如来のお慈悲を感じ、お智慧に照らされ、みなさまと一緒に仏道を歩ませていただきます。今年も開教使の先生と仏教会のサポートをよろしくお願ひ申し上げます。

合掌 青木龍也

新年のメッセージ

皆さん、明けましておめでとうございます。

新年になると、この一年はどのような年になるのかなと考えることがあります。あと二年でスティーブ斯顿仏教会の創立100周年を迎えます。特別な年を迎えるにあたり、山門の設置、新しい納骨堂記念プレートの制作、ペット墓地の創設など、いくつかの百周年プロジェクトをすでに完成することができました。

さらに新たな百周年のプロジェクトとして、現在使用している紫色の聖典に代わる新しい聖典の入手を企画中です。現在使われている聖典は約35年近く使われてきて、そろそろ新しいものに置き換える必要があります。もう一つの大きなプロジェクトは、お寺の歴史の更新です。お寺の歴史書が出版されてから、すでに10年以上が経ちました。それ以来、お寺は大きな変化を遂げており、その中でもWisteria Placeの建設が印象に残ります。この期間のお寺の発展は今後のために記録されるべきです。

いくつかの大規模なプロジェクトが進行中ですが、その他にも多くのイベントが計画されています。1月17日・18日の週末には報恩講法要が開催されます。報恩講は浄土真宗の御開山の親鸞聖人の追悼法要であり、最も大切なお参りであります。

今年の報恩講法要にはウォータールー大学のジェフ・ウィルソン教授をお迎えで大変嬉しく、光栄に思っています。彼は宗教学で仏教を教えています。また、ジェフ先生はトロント仏教会とハミルトン仏教会の開教使アシスタントであります。

週末の一環として、ジェフ先生が1月17日土曜日の午後3時に特別講演を行います。講演会の題は「念佛の包摂性」とされています。とても今の時代にふさわしい重要な講演であります。

包摂性についてですが、この数年の間、人がお寺に集まるために様々な活動をし続けてきました。そして、その成果が徐々に見えるようになってきました。日々混沌としていく世界の中で、お寺は平和と調和を見つけることができる小さな一角です。お寺には特別な雰囲気があり、皆さんとまた一緒に念佛をいただける2026年を楽しみにしております。

合掌、
生田真見



役員会から知らせ

12月8日の役員会で議論したことのハイライトをいくつかお知らせします。

で「美しかった」です。

- 今後10年のスティープストン仏教会を見据えて、長期的な戦略計画に集中するべく2月に対面ミーティングを持つことを計画しました。2026年の半ば迄に、この件についてガイドラインを作るよう計画しています。

・取り急ぎの連絡ですが、日本人の高校生ボランティア達が、日本の寺のイベントの手伝いをしています。親身な感謝の言葉をいただきました。その他の方々、親身な感謝の言葉をいただきました。手助けをありがとうございます。私達は本当に感謝の言葉をいただきました。

合掌 アンザイ・ダグ スティーブ斯顿仏教会役員
を代表して

婦人会からのお知らせ



翌
鏡餅も作り、パッケージに詰めました。皆さんにお土産と年
日7日（日）の忘年会の時に参加者の皆さんは忘年会と
して差し上げました。今年は中野イボ美仕して下さった皆様、ど
うもありがとうございました。ボランティアの皆さんに会員の方々
のランチを頼みました。飲み物を下さった。ボランティアの皆
さんは12月14日はお掃除は大掃除です。手拭を等戸棚を拭き
お寺のアドバイスを聞き、ドアや戸棚を下さいました。感謝いた
シテ、電灯、座席を下さった皆さんに心から感謝いたします。

婦人会総会が1月25日（日）の1:00にあります。ご興味のある方はどなたでも大歓迎ですので、どうぞお出で下さい。

萌の会 郷恵子

The image shows a group of elderly people, mostly women, gathered in a room for a New Year's celebration. They are seated around a table, smiling and holding glasses, likely toasting. The room is decorated with red balloons and a painting on the wall. The text on the left describes the event as a New Year's gathering where they sang and played instruments, and a special guest, a pianist, performed.

