



法のともしび LIGHT OF THE DHARMA

For the Love of Chanting

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

Sunday February 1st 10:30am
Shotsuki Service&Nirvana Day

Sunday February 8th 10:30am
Regular Sunday Service

Monday February 9th 7:00pm
Board Meeting

Sunday February 15th 10:30 am
Fujinkai Dana Day Service

Sunday February 22nd 10:00am
Dharma School

Sunday February 22nd 10:30am
Regular Service

Sunday February 22nd 1:00pm
TEMPLE AGM

**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.**

Sariputra, in that Buddha Land, when a gentle breeze begins to blow, causing the arrayed jeweled trees and decorative jeweled nets to stir, they produce subtle, harmonious sounds. It is as if a hundred thousand musical instruments were being played simultaneously. Everyone who hears those sounds becomes spontaneously mindful of the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha. Sariputra, that Buddha Land is filled with such splendor and adornments.



(Excerpt describing the Pure Land, from the **Amida Sutra**)

On January 18th, we held our Hoonko service honoring Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. For the service, we chanted the Shoshinge and Nembutsu Wasan, a chant written by Shinran Shonin, and seen as the most foundational chant for Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. It is my favorite chant and to hear the Hondo full of people chanting together is most gratifying.

In the introductory passage from the Amida Sutra, it mentions that in the Pure Land “When a gentle breeze begins to blow, the arrayed jeweled trees and decorative jeweled nets stir to produce harmonious sounds leading everyone to be mindful of the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha”. Chanting together with a Hondo (main worship hall) full of people reminds me of the harmonious sounds of the Pure Land. It doesn’t matter whether one is “good” or “bad” at chanting, when we all chant together the sound becomes harmonious. The idea of receiving the Dharma together and chanting together is paramount in the teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. In chapter 6 of the **Tannisho (Verses Lamenting the Divergences)**, Shinran Shonin states the following.

It appears that disputes have arisen among followers of the sole practice of nembutsu, who argue that “these are my disciples” or “those are someone else’s disciples.” This is utterly senseless.

For myself, I do not have even a single disciple. For if I brought people to say the nembutsu through my own efforts, then they might be my disciples. But it is indeed preposterous to call persons “my disciples” when they say the nembutsu having received the working of Amida.

Through this passage, Shinran Shonin is pointing out that bringing one to recite the Nembutsu is solely through the working of Amida Buddha, and thus we receive the teachings together as well as chant together as one. So important is this idea that for a number of years our mother temple in Kyoto, the Hongwanji, was using the slogan, “Everyone Receives the Dharma Together, Everyone Shares in Spreading the Dharma Together” (全員聞法全員伝道 Zen In Mon Po Zen In Den Do).

What a wonderful slogan this is. In fact, I would like to suggest that we adopt it for our Centennial Slogan. In the next two years may we work towards full engagement where “Everyone Receives the Dharma Together, and Everyone Shares in Spreading the Dharma Together”.

In Gassho,
Grant Ikuta



BOARD NOTES

Here are January 12th Board meeting highlights:

- Thanks in part to a temple member's enquiry, our accounting firm has confirmed that it is possible to donate securities (stocks, bonds, etc.) to the temple. Donations are based on current value, and avoid any capital gains taxes. This is a win-win for both the donor and for the temple. If you would like to leave a donation legacy, the Office has the required forms for you.
- The temple has an easy-to-use AED (auto emergency defibrillator) clearly labelled just outside the entrance to the women's washroom. We discussed training for key staff (ministers, office staff, Dharma School teacher, etc.) and the option of pursuing full First Aid/CPR/AED certification. Thank you to Amy, who is an RN, for her professional suggestions and potentially conducting an AED orientation session.
- The wireless headset installation & operation has been completed and Grant sensei has been left with the task of fine-tuning operation of this beneficial hands-free audio tool.
- The board also reviewed a number of building & grounds issues. A critical replacement part for the fire alarm panel is being addressed, otherwise a full panel replacement will be a pricey, high-cost requirement. Handrails on both sides of the naijin are on order so that use of the steps to/from the podiums is much safer. A new sawhorse-type ladder simplifies hondo light bulb changes. And, a new motion-activated security camera has been installed that monitors the temple's front entrance area.
- The Steveston Buddhist Temple is beginning plans for its 100-year events by establishing the organizing committee which will be formally announced at the AGM to engage the broader sangha in planning for the temple's 100th anniversary. Celebration projects include a new Seiten service book with fresh content compilations and perhaps national collaboration with other temples. The seitens project includes comprehensive publishing, printing and binding requirements.
- The board voted to identify tangible, priority long term (10-year) goals & objectives that will be the focus of discussions at our March board meeting. Professional facilitation may be considered in future for the temple to determine its own plans & pathways.
- Reminder: Temple members are invited to the SBT AGM on Feb. 22nd @ 1:00pm.

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!



SBT Board members accompanied Hoonko weekend (Jan. 17-18) guest Reverend Dr. Jeff Wilson at dinner after his very informative and engaging Saturday lecture.



At Sunday, January 25th's SBT Fujinkai AGM the agenda included everything from the group finances to many of the popular annual events the small but mighty group services. Look for details which will be published in the next newsletter.



Temple choir meets 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month. Their voices and enjoyable time together is music to our ears!

AGM

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, February 22, 2026
1:00PM

The Steveston Buddhist Temple annual general meeting will be Sun. Feb. 22nd. Members are invited to attend to share their thoughts at the meeting, or at any-time via Reverend Grant or any of the board members.

For concerns or further details for the AGM please contact the SBT office (info@steveston-temple.ca) Thank you.

Moe No Kai Keiko Go

The article about the Moe No-Kai New Year's gathering in January will be announced in the next newsletter.

Please note that the February Moe No-Kai will be held on the 19th. As a Hinamatsuri (Girls' Day) decoration, there will be a simple Ikebana (flower arrangement) class. The class will be led by Michiko san, who is both one of our volunteers and an Ikebana instructor. Please bring a container with which you would like to arrange your flowers (such as a vase, flower holder, basket, or ceramic container) as well as flowers and branches. If you do not have one, please notify Keiko at the office in advance. This is a fun event to welcome spring, so please feel free to invite your friends and join us.



Moe No Kai is a drop – in program that costs \$2 per session, and any senior aged 60 or older is welcome to participate. It is held every third Thursday of the month starting at 10 a.m. Occasionally, the date may change, so please be sure to check the monthly newsletter or contact the office for confirmation. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please Welcome Ikumi Soma

Steveston Buddhist Temple Office Assistant
 by Doug Anzai



With a growing calendar of annual events, some exciting 100-year anniversary plans, and Keiko san's slightly reduced work schedule, the temple board has arranged the addition of part-time assistant Ikumi Soma.

Hello and Welcome to our friendly, hard-working temple Ikumi. Please tell us a little bit about yourself:

" Thank You very much. I was born and raised in Nasushiobara City in Tochigi Prefecture, Japan, surrounded by rice fields and beautiful nature.

In my spare time I enjoy making accessories and creating nail art, especially anything involving color matching. I enjoy spending time with my family: my husband, my son and my dog. I also take Latin dance classes, which I really enjoy.

My favourite food is seafood!

I enjoy watching figure skating and marathons.

I am also currently working as a Concierge at Wisteria Place.

Thank you, I look forward to meeting everyone! "

Ikumi

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the Steveston Buddhist Temple

Chow Tanny
 Esson Karen
 Guy Rosa
 Hui Sumiko
 Katai Shoichi Edward
 Matsuba M. Kyle
 Matsuo Akiko
 Matsuo Ken Kiyoshi

We are very happy that you have become a member of the Temple and hope that you will be able to enjoy the variety of activities this temple offers.

A Commentary on Effects of World War II



In the New Year's message by His Eminence Monshu Ohtani Kojun, he wrote "I cannot but express my regret and shame ... about the Hongwanji's role in supporting WW II." He continues, "With sincerity in our hearts we must continue to strive for peace and not repeat the errors that were committed in WW II."

These words expressed by the Monshu raised my consciousness about what occurred to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in Canada during this tumultuous period of upheaval of all Japanese due to World War II. All persons of Japanese descent were forcibly removed 160 kilometres from the west coast of Canada. We experienced this mass-exodus with emotional distress of fear, anger and sadness. Some were defiant about the situation. Some were unsure of the outcome and accepted this fate. Shikataga nai, the Japanese would say. As a child, I relied totally on my parents' decisions. Fortunately their decisions led me to the path of the Buddha Dharma. As I became involved with the dissemination of the doctrine, I turned the pages of the history of Jodo Shinshu in Canada and found a silver-lining, a positive outcome.

Perhaps unknown to many of the Jodo Shinshu followers, particularly those of the post-war generations, there were nine Jodo Shinshu temples in the 160 km restricted area. The war caused the closure of the doors of the temples in Royston (Vancouver Island), Skeena (Port Essington), New Westminster, Steveston, Mission, Haney Hammond, and Honpa, Kitsilano and Fairview (Vancouver). The temple in Kelowna was unaffected. The result of the closure led to the destruction and dissemination of treasured items such as the shrines and its contents. Even the urns containing ashes of the deceased were possessed or destroyed by the British Columbia Government Securities Commission. The structure of the Royston temple is one that remains today while other temples are only markings on a map. The beautifully handcrafted shrine (built in Kyoto) of the Royston temple was taken by the Government Security Commission and eventually repossessed by the Raymond temple. Subsequently, it was donated to the Calgary Glenbow Museum and has found a secure place. Likewise, the Skeena shrine found its home at the Hamilton temple. The remains of other temples are unknown.

World War II had a devastating effect on the ministers as well. Rev. Sokan Asaka from Royston was relocated to New Denver, Rev. Toshio Katatsu from Steveston to Lemon Creek, Rev. Ryuchi Hirahara from Fairview to Slocan, Rev. Renshin Tachibana from Fairview to Tashme, newly appointed Rev. Kenryu Tsuji to Sandon, Rev. Shinjo Ikuta from New Westminster to Raymond, and Rev. Yutetsu Kawamura from Haney Hammond to Picture Butte. Mr. Matsuiro Ohashi, a lay minister, served at the Skeena temple. Rev. Eon Mitsubayashi, minister of the Honpa temple in Vancouver was separated from his wife and son and detained in Petawawa, Quebec and eventually sent to Angler, Ontario. After four years of confinement, he was released, and after which he served the Coaldale temple in Southern Alberta.

Despite the climate of hatred, unrest and forced relocation to various locations many families continued to maintain their allegiance to Jodo Shinshu led by the devout followers and the aforementioned ministers. It was their indomitable, gambari, spirit that carried them forward.

This spirit was exemplified by two stories that headlined the local media. The late Mrs. Miyoko Nose of the Vancouver temple was quoted in the Vancouver Sun on September 24, 2005, "We were devastated (by the forced evacuation). They made us leave our home with just a canvas pack, but we didn't leave our Buddhist shrine at home. We took it with us." The Vancouver Sun further stated, "For about a decade most Japanese worshipped in private. Mrs. Nose and her family were sent to internment camps in Slocan City and Lemon Creek and worshipped discreetly in their home before a makeshift shrine. She did not step foot into a temple again until 1951." In the Toronto Star of August 20, 2005 on the opening of the new Toronto Buddhist Temple, there appeared this headline: "The Buddhist Church rejoices as the parishioners succeed in preserving their heritage while integrating into Canadian society." The article continued, "Teruji Goto beams as he strolls through the newly minted Toronto Buddhist Church at Sheppard Avenue. Having been forcibly dispersed into the hinterlands of Canada, the Japanese Buddhists stuck with their conviction that their beliefs and traditions must be kept alive. The church survived in Canada, says Goto, 78, who was born and raised near the Fraser River in B.C. It was started by a group of faithful people and is still growing. This is just amazing."

There are many other untold stories, I am sure, that could describe the personal sufferings experienced by many due to the war. And, yet despite these hardships, there was "a silver lining". Such is the spread of the Buddha Dharma across Canada wherein Jodo Shinshu has found a home in various communities. And, the Steveston Buddhist temple is one of those.

In Gassho, Roy Akune



Original Obutsudan of the Royston Temple

第二次世界大戦の影響に関する論評

浄土真宗本願寺派第二十五代大谷光淳ご門主は「2026年年頭の辞」に「本願寺教団が第二次世界大戦に積極的に加担協力した事実を慚愧せざにはおれません。私達は、その事実と真摯に向き合い平和の実現を目指すとともに、決して同じ過ちを繰り返してはなりません。」と書かれています。

ご門主のこの言葉は、第二次世界大戦によって、すべ

この精神は、地元新聞の見出しを飾った二つの記事に具体的に示されています。バンクーバー仏教会の故ノセ・ミヨコ夫人の話は、2005年9月24日のバンクーバー・サンに、このように引用されました。「私達

合掌 阿久根口イ

FUJINKAI NEWS

June Ikuta



We began our New Year with our January Shotsuki Service which was well attended by about 100 people. Mochi manju which we sell at each Shotsuki service sold out very quickly. Thank you, ladies, who come out to make the manju.

January 17 & 18 we honoured our founder Shinran Shonin by commemorating Hoonko Service. The Fujinkai was asked to serve Miso soup and green tea with the Bento ordered from Takeya Sushi for the luncheon.

The Fujinkai Annual General Meeting was held on January 25th at 1:00 pm. President Doug Anzai, Treasurer Annette Stevens, Keiko&Renako (office staff) were invited to attend the meeting.

Results of the election of officers will be reported in the next bulletin.



Fujinkai preparing Miso Soup for New Year's Party

DONATIONS & Memberships

The Steveston Buddhist Temple sincerely appreciates and thanks the following for their generous donations: All donations deposited after January 23rd, 2026 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 (\$3,660): Akune Roy & Itoko, Anzai June, Canadian Online Giving Foundation, Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple, Hashimoto Junichi, Hattori Minnie, Hirose Mary, Kaita Alan, Kimura George, Kumagai Tetsuo & Noriko, Matsushita Nobuko, Morizawa Sazare, Nishida Miki, Nomura Dan, Sakai Mike & Fe, Ryan Jeanne, Tasaka Don, Teraguchi Jean, Watanabe Keiko, Yazawa Chiharu, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko

Ossaisen Donation(\$420.95)

Shotsuki Donations (\$5,040):

December: Kamimura Mitsuo & Sada, Sakurai Tommy & Naomi
January: Akizuki Casey & Ayako, Akune Roy & Itoko, Butler Linda, Colpitts Donna, Domai Koji, Domai Kyosuke, Egami Denise, England C, Ericson Leanne & Craig, Esson Karen, Foster Sharon, Hamade Midori, Hamaura Misaye, Hayashi Yoshiko, Hirose Mary, Ikuta Kuni & June, John Annie, Kakehi Tomoko, Katai Ed & Kay, Kawabata Jack, Kawabata Mitsuyo, Kemp Norine & Kevin, Kimura George, Kimura Sueko, King Hiroko, Kojima Jim, Kondo Kaoru, Kuramoto Isao & Ina, Kuramoto June, Lum Hitomi, Matsuo David, Matsumura Laverne, Matsumura Margaret, Matsuo Ken & Akiko, Matsuo Mike, Mehl Rainer, Morimoto Anthony, Matsuo Corey, Mukai Diane, Mukai Kathy & Henry, Mukai Sadao & Shioko, Mukai Tom, Murao Ray, Murao Tom, Nakano Alison, Nevins Julie, Niguma Kazuko, Nishi Eric, Nishi Greg & Mary, Nishi Julie, Nishi Kayoko, Nishi Susan, Niwatsukino Yumi,

Nomura Dan, Nomura Mark & Chris, Nomura-Rejto Cathy, Obayashi H & J, O'Brien Michael & Audrey, Okabe Mary, Pomeroy Rieko, Quan Ernest & Toshiko, Quan Jess, Ryan Larry & Jeanne, Sakai Alan & Carol, Sakamoto Bud, Sakamoto-singh Crystal, Sakiyama Butch & Marilyn, Sakiyama Liz, Sameshima M L, Sameshima Raymond & Famey, Sameshima Teresa, Sano Masayoshi, Satosono Aya, Setterstrom Amy, Slye J, Tabata Ian, Tabata Tosh, Takasaki Alan, Takasaki C, Takasaki K & S, Takeuchi Ken & Sachiko, Takeuchi J, Tanaka Martin, Tasaka Rick & Naomi, Teraguchi Jean, Tipple Chris & Pat, Tsukijima Judy, Yamanaka Sachiko, Yesaki Arthur, Yesaki Itsuo & Misao, Yesaki Tom, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko

Major Services (\$1210):

Jodo-e: Akune Roy & Itoko, Chow Nobu & Suezone, Guy R&G, Hashimoto Junichi, Katai Kay & Ed, Kojima Michiko, Nishi Kayoko, Seguev Michiko, Virtue Susie & Vincent, Yasui-Davies Laureen, Anonymous, Ward Ryoko

Joyare: Murakami Lori, Oki Hiroshi, Ikuta Kuni & June, Tomihiro Kazuko, Yesaki Tom

Eitaikyo: Tomihiro Kazuko

Funerals & Memorial Services (\$1,190) : In memory of the late:

Ken Teramura: Nomura Dan

Nobuo Domai: Quan Toshiko

Elmer Morishita: Nishi Roland

13 year memorial of Keizo Sato: Go Keiko, Sato Helen

31 year memorial of brother Hiroshi Niwatsukino: Tomihiro Kazuko

Inurnment service of Yukie & Shigenobu Kamimura: Kamimura Craig

OBITUARY

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

Kiyoe Wada	December 24, 2025	83 Years Old
Kenneth Teramura	January 3, 2026	78 Years Old

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

Akizuki, Osamu	Kariya, Yukio	Morishita, Kimiyo
Akune, Shizuka	Kawabata, Hiroshi	Morizawa, Shigeo
Araki, Merv Masato	Kawabata, Yonekichi	Murakami, Fumie
Domae, Iwao	Kimura, Shinkichi	Murao, Toshimi
Harada, Satoru	Kishi, Yoichi	Nagasawa, Mary
Haya, Nobby	Kitsuda, Nana	Nakano, Yasuno
Higo, Haruko (Ruby)	Kokubo, Hideo	Nakata, Kiku
Higo, Miteru	Kuwabara, Seiya	Nakatsu, Yoshiko
Hori, Tome	Maeda, Sachiko	Nishi, Hideko
Ikari, Rokumatsu	Maruyama, Takao	Nishi, Kunio
Kariya, Iwao	Miyazaki, Kiyoko	Nishi, Masahiko
Kariya, Yasushi George	Miyazaki, Takeo	Nishi, Senkichi
Kariya, Yone	Mori, Rihe	Nishi, Shizuko

March 2026 MEMORIAL SERVICE (Please bring your "Homyo".)

Akizuki, Tom Fumitaka	Hiroshi	Kurahashi, Yoneji
Amadatsu, Tsunemori	Handa, Noriyuki	Lee, William
Atagi, Kaya	Hashimoto, Masaaki	Maede, Toyoko
Baker, Alice	Hori, Masami	Maede, Yoneharu
Domae, Toyokazu	Horikoshi, Taro	Maeno, Hajime
Domai, Hisae	Ikuta, Makoto	Matsumura, Seitaro
Furukawa, Jun	Inouye, Susumu	Matsuno, Yoko
Hamade, Lorne	Kakehi, Makoto	Morishita, Shigeo
Hamade, Tadanori	Kariya, Sonoye	Mukai, Teruo
Hamakawa, Yukiko	Kitagawa, Tadao Tad	Murakami, Asamatsu
Hamanishi, Hiroichi	Kobayashi, Harue	Murao, Kimiyo
Hamanishi, Kazumi	Koyanagi, Tadatoshi	Murao, Yoshiyuki
Hamaura, Robert	Kurahashi, Tomiko	Murao, Nagako

Nishihama, Yoshiko	Sakai, Hayao	Tasaka, Yukio
Nishii, Iyo	Sakamoto, Nancy	Tomihiro, Yoshiro 'Doc'
Nishii, Larry	Natsue	Toyoda, Yoshinobu
Nomura, Junichi	Shinde, Kumiko	Tsumura, Yasue
Nomura, Tsutaye	Suzuki, Masao	Uchida, Shiro
Ogawa, Etsuko	Tabata, Susumu	Uyeda, Masako
Ogawa, Mifune 'Miffy'	Takasaki, Yukihiro	Wakita, Saijiro
Ohara, Takashi	Takashita, Nobuo	Yamamoto, Carole Toyomi
Ohara, Yoichi	Tamaki, Sunao	Yasui, Tsuyu
Okano, Haruo	Tamaki, Tsurue	Yasui, Ukiyoshi
Oyama, Fujiyo	Tanaka, Yonekichi	Yesaki, Shiro
Ozeki, Tomi	Tasaka, Jennifer	
Saito, Toshimi	Tasaka, Kuniko	
Nagata, Kazuo	Ogawa, Tsurue	Takasaki, Mitsuo
Nagata, Toshiko	Ogawa, Masaharu	Takasaki, Toshiko
Naka, Satsue	Ojiro, Anthony Kusuo	Tasaka, Arizo
Nakano, Chitose	Omae, Kinuyo	Wakayama, Tamio
Nakata, Masayo	Omura, Yukiko	Yamamoto, Hajime
Nakata, Minosuke	Oyama, Tsuruko	Yamamoto, John
Nakata, Tokiko	Sato, Rex Hiroyuki	Yamamoto, Nuiko
Nakatsuru, Satoru	Sakamoto, Aiko	Yamanaka, Takao
Niguma, Toshio	Sakamoto, Makoto	Yoshida, Kazuo
Nishi, Masao	Sakamoto, Roy	Yoshida, Yoshio
Nishi, Takeshi Bill	Shirakawa, Hatsune	
Nishihama, Mankichi	Shiyoji, Dennis	
Nogami, Hiroshi	Suzuki, Shigeo	



先駆者 SENKUSHA

Stories of Japanese Canadian Trailblazers

The 先駆者 Senkusha series spotlights unsung heroes within the Japanese Canadian community, highlighting the personal stories and legacies of elders, ancestors, and community leaders who have significantly contributed to the resilience and growth of JC culture and community in Canada.

by Karen Koyanagi Geiger

THE IKUTA FAMILY – THREE GENERATIONS OF BUDDHIST FAITH IN CANADA

The Ikuta family's story is one of resilience, faith, and enduring service. For nineteen generations including three in Canada, they have shared the teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism across Canada, guiding the Japanese Canadian community through displacement, hardship, and renewal.

Rev. Shinjo Ikuta, the family patriarch, was born in Japan in 1892. He immigrated to Canada to serve as a Buddhist minister at the Japanese Church in New Westminster, BC, where he lived with his wife, Mino (née Fukushima), and raised their five children while devoting himself to spiritual service. In 1942, during the forced uprooting of Japanese Canadians, Rev. Shinjo was branded a "Class A" security risk and labeled an "enemy alien," despite having committed no crime. He was one of 35 individuals deemed potential threats to national security. Though never charged, he was forcibly relocated with his family to Raymond, Alberta, and faced deportation to Japan.

Even under suspicion and duress, Rev. Shinjo remained devoted to his ministry. The JC community rallied, and the Mayor of Lethbridge petitioned Ottawa to reverse the deportation, citing a potential strike among sugar beet workers. Rev. Shinjo received a special permit to continue serving JC Buddhists in Lethbridge, where nearly 4,000 people had been relocated to work on sugar beet farms. With suitcase limits, many families left behind urns in BC, and Rev. Shinjo arranged for them to be shipped to Raymond. His quiet strength and presence offered spiritual care during a time of trauma and injustice—laying the foundation for the family's legacy of service in Canada.

His eldest son, Rev. Susumu Kyojo Ikuta, was born in Kyoto in 1926 and moved to Canada in 1937. After enduring internment



and then graduating from Raymond High School, he earned an MA in philosophy from the University of Toronto and a Buddhist ministry degree at Ryukoku University in Kyoto, where he met and married Teruko Yamasaki. In 1958, Susumu returned to Canada for a 50-year ministry. He helped convert a former Croatian Catholic church into the Calgary Buddhist Temple while also operating the Edo Japan franchise to support it financially. Sus was respected for his wisdom, compassion and commitment to the Dharma. He passed away in 2014, leaving behind his wife Teruko, four children, and many grandchildren.

His son, Rev. Grant Ikuta, born in Vancouver in 1964,

carries the family legacy into the next generation. After earning a science degree from the University of Alberta, he pursued Buddhist studies in Japan, completing a Master's in Shinshu Studies and receiving full ordination. In 1992, he became the first Canadian-born, third-generation (Sansei) Kaikyoshi minister. He served 16 years at the Toronto Buddhist Church and now ministers at the Steveston Buddhist Temple, where he continues to teach and inspire. Rev. Grant is married to Noriko and has four children. His brother Roland, a retired doctor, now ministers at the Lethbridge Temple, while another brother, Lester, a retired dentist, serves on the board of the National Buddhist Temple, and their sister Mari has been a driving force of the Vernon Buddhist Temple for many years.

Through war, resettlement, and changing times, the Ikuta family has remained a guiding presence for Japanese Canadian Buddhists. From Rev. Shingo's wartime perservance to his grandchildren's leadership today, their story is a testament to faith, service, and intergenerational dedication. In Gassho. Namo Amida Butsu. The Ikuta Family. ♦



Rev. Shinjo Ikuta

Rev. Susumu Ikuta

Rev. Grant Ikuta
Cumberland 2024

Susumu Ikuta & Sons

Ikuta Family Reunion 2016

The 先駆者 Senkusha project gratefully acknowledges support from the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society



STEVESTON Buddhist Temple

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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 Weekend

A memorable weekend was had by all during our Hoonko weekend on January 17th and 18th, 2026. We were very fortunate to have as our special guest, Dr. Jeff Wilson from University of Waterloo. Wilson Sensei gave an engaging and inspiring lecture on the Saturday focusing on the inclusivity of the Nembutsu Way. Jeff Sensei was also our guest for the Sunday Hoonko service. Following the service, we held our New Year Party where everyone enjoyed bento from Takeya, Odori performances by Tatsumi-Ryu Dancers, and a magic show by Graham Kita which had kids and adults encapsulated alike.

Thank you to Jeff Wilson Sensei for taking time from your busy schedule to join us and thank you to all those who helped out, making it an enjoyable and meaningful weekend.

Gassho,
Steveston Buddhist Temple

踊パフォーマンス、そしてグラハム・キタによるマジックショーがあり、子供も大人も楽しまれました。忙しいスケジュールにもかかわらず、時間を割いて参加してくださいました。ジェフ・ウィルソン先生に感謝し、週末に色々と手伝ってくださいました皆様にも感謝いたします。楽しい週末となりました。

合掌
仏教会



Reverend Dr. Jeff Wilson "Living Nembutsu" book signing after his lecture on Sat. Jan. 17th



Odori dancers under the tutelage of Mrs. Hirano sensei, perform at the Jan. 18th SBT Hoonko bento luncheon

2026年報恩講

1月17日と18日に報恩講法要週末が開催されました。ウォータールー大学のジェフ・ウィルソン博士を特別ゲストとしてお迎えいたしました。ウィルソン先生は土曜日に、お念佛の包摂性に焦点を当てたとてありがたいな講義を行いました。ジェフ先生は日曜の報恩講法要のご講師でもありました。お参りの後、新年会が開催され、みんなで竹屋の弁当、辰巳流による舞



Graham The Magic Guy entertained the audience of all ages with many amazing tricks

自然清和

宝林・宝樹微妙音
自然清和の伎楽にて
哀婉雅亮すぐれたり
清淨樂を帰命せよ
(淨土和讚より)



法のともしび

2月となり冬の一番厳しい時期に入りました。風邪もひきやすい季節なので皆様はお体に気を付けてお過ごしください。

さて、去る1月18日に報恩講法要を勤めました。報恩講は親鸞聖人のご命日法要であり、浄土真宗で最も大切な法要です。お勤めは親鸞聖人がお書きになられた「正信偈」と「御和讚」を称えます。今年も大勢の参拝者でお念佛の声が響きわたりました。皆さんと一緒にお経を唱えると不思議と皆の声が一つに調和して清らかな音色になります。阿弥陀経の中にお淨土の莊嚴に「穏やかな風が吹き始めると、並んだ宝石木や宝石の網が動き、調和のとれた音を生み出し、皆が仏、法、僧に心を向けるようになる」と記されています。報恩講法要のお参りは「お淨土の調和のとれた音」を思い出させてくれました。法を共に受け、共に称えるという考えは浄土真宗の教えにおいて極めて重要です。『歎異抄』第6章、に親鸞聖人は次のように述べています。

「阿弥陀仏の救いを聞かせていただいている人の、「あの人は私の弟子だ、あの人は人の弟子だ」という争いは、もってのほかのあやまりです。

この親鸞は、一人の弟子もありません。

なぜなら、私が教えてみなさんが阿弥陀仏に救われたのならば、私の弟子ともいえるかもしれません。しかし、みなさんが仏法を聞き始められたのも、求められたのも、阿弥陀仏に救われたのも、まったく阿弥陀仏のお力によってなのですから、そんな人を「私の弟子だ」などというのはとんでもない傲慢なことです。」

この一節を通じて、親鸞聖人は念佛を称えることはあくまで阿弥陀様の働きによるものであり、私たちにはただ共に教えを受け、共にお念佛を称えるだけのことだと指摘されたのです。この考えは非常に重要であり、本願寺では長年にわたり「全員聞法全員伝道」というスローガンを使われてきました。

後2年でスティーブストン仏教会の100周年を迎えることになります。「全員聞法全員伝道」を目標にして、100周年にはすべてのメンバーの皆様が共にお念佛のみ教えをいただき、すべてのメンバーの皆様がお寺の様々な活動に参加してお念佛の和を広げていきたいと思っています。これからも宜しくお願ひ致します。

合掌、
生田真見

役員会からお知らせー アンザイダグ

1月12日の役員会で議論したことのハイライトをお知らせします。

- お寺の会員からの問い合わせのおかげもあって、株券や債券などの有価証券をお寺に寄付することが可能なことを、お寺の会計事務所が確認しました。寄付は現在価値に基づいて行われ、キャピタルゲインに対する課税は回避されます。これは寄付する方とお寺の双方にメリットがあります。レガシー寄付（遺贈寄付）を希望される方には、必要な申し込み用紙がお寺に用意してあります。
- お寺には簡単に使える「自動体外式除細動器（AED）」が、女性用トイレの入り口の外側にあります。私達は、お寺の主要なスタッフ（開教使の先生方、オフィススタッフ、ダルマスクールの先生等）が訓練を通じて「応急処置（First Aid）・心肺蘇生法（CPR）・自動体外式除細動器（AED）」のすべてを習得して資格取得を目指すことができるかについて議論しました。専門家の知見に基づき、オリエンテーションセッション開催の実現可能性について提案をしてくれた私達の役員で正看護師（RN）のエイミーに感謝します。
- ワイヤレスヘッドセットの据付と操作が完了しました。手を使わずに操作できる、この便利なオーディオ機器の微調整はグラント先生に委ねられました。
- また役員達は、建物と土地に関するたくさんの案件を見直しました。火災警報器のパネルの一部取替は急を要するので、すぐに対処します。さもないとパネル全体を取替えなければならなくなり、コストがとても高くなります。お内陣の両側に設置する手すりは注文中です。これでお内陣への昇り降りがずっと安全になります。ソーホースタイプ（木挽き台型）の新しいはしごによって、本堂の電球の取替が簡単になりました。それから、お寺の正面玄関付近をモニターするために、「モーション起動型」のセキュリティカメラが設置されました。
- スティーブストン仏教会は、創立百周年を祝うイベントの計画を立て始めています。これを機にもっと広範囲の地域社会・サンガが祝典計画に関わっていけるよう、「百周年祝賀委員会（3C）」という組織委員会を設立することが、来たる年次総会で公式に発表されます。祝賀プロジェクトには、おそらくカナダ教団の他のお寺との共同作業で、新しい聖典を製作することも含まれています。出版、印刷、製本など、出版物を作る上で必要なすべての工程に関する要件、細かい取り決めが含まれるでしょう。
- 役員達は、「具体的で優先的な長期（今後10年）のゴール目標」を3月の役員会で特定し、集中的に

法のともしび

議論することについて投票をしました。お寺が今後進むべき道を決定していくために、サポートや促進を専門的に円滑に進める働きかけが考慮されるでしょう。

お寺についてのご提案がありましたら、生田グランツ先生が役員にいつでもご自由にお声をかけてお聞かせください。私たちはどんなご提案に対してもオープンで興味があります。

ようこそ相馬郁美さん！

アンザイ・ダグ

スティーブストン仏教会の
新しいオフィスアシスタント

お寺の年間のイベントの増加、創立百周年記念を祝ういくつかの計画、そして郷恵子さんの今後の仕事量の減少などに伴い、役員会はパートタイムのオフィスアシスタントとして相馬郁美さんをお迎えすることにしました。

ダグ：「こんにちは郁美さん、フレンドリーで一生けんめい仕事に取り組むこのお寺によこそ！ 簡単な自己紹介をお願いします。」



郁美さん：「ありがとうございます。私は日本の栃木県那須塩原市で生まれ育ちました。そこは稻作の田んぼと美しい自然に囲まれています。

私は、アクセサリー作りやネイルアートなど特に色合わせを楽しむことをして余暇を過ごします。私は家族——主人と息子とペットの犬——と共に過ごす時間を楽しめます。それからラテンダンスのクラスをとっていて、すごく楽しいです。私が好きな食べ物は、シーフードです！あとフィギュアスケートとマラソンを観て楽しめます。

私は現在、ウィステリアプレイスでもコンシェルジュとして働いています。皆様にお会いすることを楽しみにしています！ありがとうございます。」

敬弔

次の方がご逝去されたので、生前のご苦労を偲び、謹んで敬弔の意を表します。

和田 清江 2025年12月24日寂 83歳
寺村 ケネス 2026年1月3日寂 78歳

婦人会からのお知らせ

生田ジューン

新年は1月の祥月法要から始まり、100人ぐらいの大勢の方がいらっしゃいました。いつも祥月法要の時に売っているお饅頭があつという間に売れました。お饅頭つくりのボランティアさん、どうもありがとうございました。

1月17、18日は宗祖親鸞聖人のご命日法要のための報恩講がありました。ランチは竹屋のお弁当を頼み、婦人会ではみそ汁とお茶を出しました。

婦人会の年次総会が1月25日の1時からありました。会長のアンザイ・ダグ、会計のスティーブンス・アネット、恵子と玲奈子（事務室の職員）は総会に招待されました。

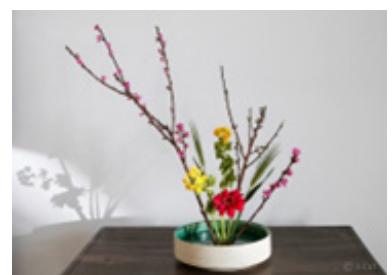
役員の選挙結果は次号でお知らせいたします。



萌の会

郷恵子

1月の萌の会の新年会の記事は次回のニュースレターでお知らせ致します。尚、2月は19日になります。ひな祭りのお飾りとして簡単な生け花教室をボランティアさんの一人であり、生け花の先生でもある径子さんのご指導によって行われます。お花を活けたい花器（花瓶、花立、籠、陶器など）また、特別に活けたい花をお持ちください。花器をお持ちでない場合は、前もってオフィスの郷までお知らせ下さいませ。



春をお迎えする楽しい企画です。是非お友達をお誘いの上お越しください。萌の会はドッロブイン形式で一回2ドルにつき、60歳以上のシニアの方でしたらどなたでも参加できます。毎月第3木曜日の午前10時から行われています。場合によっては日にちが変更になることがありますので、必ず毎月発行されるニュースレター若しくは、オフィスにお問い合わせ下さいませ。皆様のお越しをお待ちしております。