

History of the Steveston Buddhist Temple

***HISTORY
OF THE
STEVESTON BUDDHIST
TEMPLE
1928 - 2011***



***Message from
Reverend Grant Ikuta
Steveston Buddhist Temple***



The Three Treasures of Buddhism

“I go to the Buddha for Guidance.
I go to the Dharma for Guidance.
I go to the Sangha for Guidance”
(Three Treasures of Buddhism)

History of the Steveston Buddhist Temple.
Compiled by members of the Steveston Buddhist Temple.

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Steveston Buddhist Temple
4360 Garry Street
Richmond, British Columbia
V7E 2V2
604-277-2323
www.steveston-temple.ca

On this occasion of the publishing of the History of the Steveston Buddhist Temple, I am humbled to have been asked to write this introductory article. In 2003, the Steveston Buddhist Temple celebrated the 75th Anniversary since its inception. In commemorating 75 years in existence, the temple undertook several projects including the building of the *Nokotsudo* Columbarium and the formation of the History Committee, with the goal of gathering information and putting it all together in a form of a history book honoring the memories of the pioneers of this temple. It is with great joy and relief that the dedication and perseverance of the History Committee is finally bearing fruit with the publication of this book. May I begin by congratulating all those who were involved in seeing this project through to completion.

I believe there are two main reasons for examining the history of an organization. The first is to reminisce and rekindle fond memories of the past and, perhaps just as important, to learn from it so that we may obtain guidance on how to proceed in the future. In the case of the Steveston Buddhist Temple, the examination of the history and development of the temple would be incomplete without a review of the Buddhist principles which lay the foundation by which the temple has existed over eighty years.

The introductory passage for this article is known as the Three Treasures or Jewels of Buddhism and they are referred to as such for they tell us what is truly important in life. The Three Treasures of Buddhism are the Buddha, the *Dharma*, and the *Sangha*.

The Buddha was of course the historic being who taught the teachings of Buddhism. In examining the rich history of the Steveston Buddhist Temple, first and foremost, we can see the dedication of the membership towards the Buddha; as generation after generation, ministers together with the members have striven to make sure that the temple was a place to come to receive the teachings of the Buddha.

The *Dharma*, which is translated as the Buddha’s teaching, is much more than just some philosophy, it is the universal truth that an oneness exists throughout and that we are all a part of. The *Dharma* gives us guidance by putting our lives into perspective. Again, throughout the history of the temple, this ideal of oneness has been a core principle in creating a harmonious existence.

Finally, the *Sangha* was originally translated as the brotherhood or ordained clergy, is generally recognized today as the Buddhist Community overall. It is in this meaning that we can see the true vibrancy of our temple, as families and friends

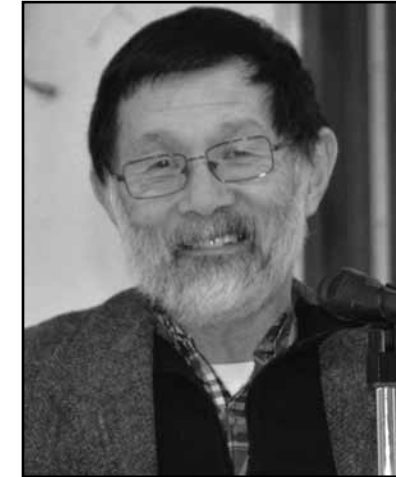
have gathered at the Steveston Buddhist Temple to celebrate good times and to gain strength and support during difficult times. Over the years, the congregation has developed and changed by establishing themselves as a hub within the Steveston Community, not only from a religious standpoint, but as a vital part of the cultural mosaic making up the greater community of Steveston.

The Steveston Buddhist Temple History Project gives us a wonderful opportunity to revisit the great commitment of the past membership so that we may take this opportunity to rededicate our own lives to ensure the continuation of this wonderful temple for generations to come.

Reiterating the feeling of indebtedness and honor, I would like to again acknowledge the work of the History Committee and I hope this will encourage people to recognize the significance of our temple within the community.

Sincerely in Gassho

***Message from
President Bud Sakamoto
Steveston Buddhist Temple***



The Steveston Buddhist Temple had its beginnings more than one hundred years ago when the early pioneers from Japan brought their faith with them. Because of the discrimination of the early twentieth century, it was not until 1928 that the first temple was built. Their perseverance and dedication were the guiding lights that made Buddhism an acceptable mainstream religion today. Thanks to the early pioneers and the temple members that came before us, we have a beautiful temple where we are able to follow the teachings of *Shinran Shonin*.

The importance of our history is not the recording of facts, figures and events. It is the context of the events and the legacy that have true meaning to those who follow the teachings. The Japanese saying “***Okagesama de Arigato*** – *Because of you, I am well*” is truly the important thought resulting from this history.

We want to thank the History Committee for completing this not-so-easy task of compiling the history of the Steveston Buddhist Temple. As a result of your dedication you leave a lasting legacy.

In Gassho

Acknowledgements

This history book was initiated several years ago to gather the photos and stories of our pioneers who were instrumental in building the Steveston Buddhist Temple and a strong Sangha. This book is dedicated to our ancestors who laid the foundation for our temple. We are grateful to Mr. Masuo Hashimoto who had recorded the names of past executives and also the *Fujinkai* for the names of their past executives.

Shirley Atagi	Roy & Itoko Akune
Stacey Chan	Kiyo Domai
Masako Fukawa	Mika Hibi
Genevieve Iwata	Ruth Iwata
Kuni Ikuta	Kevin Ikuta
Chizuru Koizumi	Seishi Matsuno
Rainer Mehl	Bill Miyazaki
Peggy Nakano	Don Narukami
Toki Okano	Kazue Oye
Glen Sakamoto	Alisa Sakamoto
Mayumi Takasaki	Kaz Tasaka
Doc Tomihiro	Debbie Uyeno

We are grateful not only for the photographs but also for the background stories of the photographs which added a more personal aspect to the photos which were eventually used in the History Book.

Bukkyo Tozen, A History of Jodo Shinsu Buddhism in Canada 1905-1995 by Terry Watada was a invaluable source for history of Buddhism in Canada and the Steveston Buddhist Temple in particular.

The original editing of this book was done by Barbara Dymond and the committee is very grateful for her help. Much of the editing and checking

The History Book Committee currently consists of Mitts Sakai, Alice Kokubo and Elmer Morishita. Other individuals who have served on the committee include: Rev. Nariyuki Hattori, Rev. Masumi Kikuchi, Rev. Grant Ikuta, Ron Araki, June Ikuta, Doug Masuhara, Larry Ryan, Cathy Sakamoto and John Rennie.

Photographs and stories were collected from many individuals. These people and others who have helped the committee are listed below:

Aaron Akune
Karen Esson
Misaye Hamaura
Mak Ikuta
Jack Kawabata
Gillian Masuhara
Toshio Murao
Konosuke Nishikihama
Terry Sakai
Chiyoko Sakata
Sharon Turner
Andy Watanabe

was done by the committee and by several members of the Temple. A final review was done by the 18 board members. Our sincere thanks for their work to ensure that the information was consistent and accurate and that it was presented in an easy to read format. We are thankful to Carl Yokota, who did the final editing which improved the content and presentation of this history book.

A special thanks to Mitsuo Yesaki who patiently worked with us through numerous revisions to create this book. The committee apologizes for any errors or omissions in the history book.

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Chronology of the Steveston Buddhist Temple

Chapter 1
THE STEVESTON BUDDHIST TEMPLE:
HOW IT ALL STARTED

1928	First Temple built at 12191 First Avenue
1942	Evacuation
1952	Return to Steveston: Services held at Red Cross Hall
1953	Purchase of former Japanese Kindergarten School on Chatham Street
1956	Registered as a Society
1960	Purchase of five-acre property on Garry Street
1963	Move to new Temple at 4360 Garry Street
1970	Manse built at 4300 Garry Street
1973	Gymnasium addition
1981	Parking lot completed; storage space added
1983	Kitchen addition
1999	Name officially changed from Steveston Buddhist Church to Steveston Buddhist Temple. The words church and temple are used interchangeably in this book.
2003	Columbarium built as 75th Anniversary Project
2008	80 th Anniversary Celebrations
2010	750th Memorial Service for Shinran Shonin.
2011	Canada Cares: SBT hosted a 12 hour multi-faith vigil/prayer/chanting to provide support and comfort to those affected by the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

THE EARLY YEARS

Arrival of Japanese Immigrants in Steveston

After the first Japanese immigrants arrived in British Columbia in 1877, there was a gradual migration to Steveston where they dreamed of making their fortunes in the fishing industry so they could return to Japan and retire. Stories of huge salmon runs along the British Columbia coast attracted many men from Japan’s small fishing villages.

After a few decades, the lonely living conditions of Steveston’s exclusively male Japanese society caused them to rethink their goals. Starting in 1908, the men began to send for their wives or for 'picture brides' to start their families. Before long, the Japanese community constituted a significant segment of the population and established various businesses in Steveston .

First Buddhist Gathering

The Japanese who came to Canada to take part in the fishing industry required a license. To obtain a license, they had to be naturalized citizens. Even after obtaining their naturalization papers, the Japanese were not given full rights as citizens of Canada. These discriminatory citizenship laws were not abolished until 1949.

Almost all Japanese fishermen had been Buddhist before leaving Japan. They came with *Myo go* (a scroll showing *Namo Amida butsu*) and *Eizo* (scrolls with *Amida*’s image) in their breast pockets. The path of believing in *Amida Buddha*, which people thought to be supreme, was suppressed but their faith persisted. They longed for a Buddhist temple to pursue their religion.

In October 1907, Mr. Sensuke Muto and Mr. Kosaburo Ichino bought a *butsudan* from

Tsuda Butsudan Ten (retail store) of Kyoto. The Steveston Buddhist congregation started to meet at Mr. Atagi's store on Moncton Street between First and Second Avenue. As the congregation grew, they rented a room on the second floor of the Hepworth Building (drugstore on ground floor) on Moncton Street to house the *butsudan*. (Note: At this time, the Steveston Japanese community used a group of *kanji* (Chinese characters) which was pronounced “*Suchibutton*” to denote Steveston. The meaning of the *kanji* group is “you have to know the compassion of *Amida*”.)

This second floor room was called the *Bukkyo* (Buddhist) *Kai*. Members such as Fukumatsu Nakano and Tokumatsu Atagi practised scriptures from *sutra* chanting. When funerals were held, the *butsudan* was carried piggy-back to the deceased person’s home where mourners chanted the *Amida Sutra*. Some Japanese criticized these practices, saying that such conduct would invite more discrimination, and they lobbied to stop it. However, the power of believing in *Amida* proved to be stronger and these initial, sometimes violent, protests subsided with time.

As the number of believers increased, *Ho on ko* services started, with each member in turn hosting the services in their home. The *Bukkyo Kai* became too small to accommodate all of its members.

The displaced believers longed for the light of the Compassion of *Amida* and for the delight of listening to *Dharma* talks. The Japanese in Vancouver had built their long-awaited Buddhist temple in October 1905 and had requested a minister to preside over religious matters. The *Hongwanji* dispatched Reverend Senju Sasaki to the Vancouver temple. Steveston residents would go to Vancouver for funerals and services. They also invited the minister from Vancouver to conduct services for them in Steveston.



The first gathering of Buddhists in Steveston was held in Tokumatsu Atagi's general store on Moncton Street. The building is presently occupied by the Redden Net Company. (ca. 1930)

From Fishing to Farming

Around 1922, Caucasian fishermen and the Canadian Government (Canada was still under British rule at that time) initiated a program to exclude Japanese fishermen from the British Columbia fishing industry. An Order in Council was issued to ensure that fishing licenses for Japanese fishermen would be reduced by 40 percent in 1923. Furthermore, Japanese boat-pullers were also required to hold fishing licenses. Gillnetters at that time were generally operated by two men, a fisherman and a boat-puller. Consequently, only Japanese who were naturalized citizens or born in Canada were eligible for boat-puller licenses.

In 1924, a group of eleven people that included

Yosaku Yamashita, Shinya Yoshida, Shigetaro Nakatsuka, Kosaburo Ichino, Tokumatsu Atagi, Tsunematsu Atagi and others proposed a meeting to consult the Japanese community about building a Buddhist church in Steveston. The project was unanimously approved and it was decided to proceed. However, Jiromatsu Yamamoto, head of the Japanese fishermen's group (Benevolent Association), delivered a strong protest against the decision to build the church. He argued that, if it proceeded as planned, the movement to expel the Japanese fishermen from the fishing grounds might gain momentum.

In May 1923, another regulation was issued to prevent Japanese fishermen from obtaining fishing licenses to operate purse-seiners. The Canadian

Government enacted regulations reducing the number of Japanese fishing licenses by 15 percent in 1924 and 1925. These various regulations were designed to exclude Japanese fishermen completely from the British Columbia fishing industry. As the situation became desperate, Japanese fishermen organized the Amalgamated Association of Fishermen of B.C. to counter government pressure to eliminate their livelihood.

The Association hired two lawyers who determined that there was nothing in the Fishery Act that gave power to any authority to define what class or race of persons may be employed in the fishing industry. The Association launched its case against the Department of Fisheries in 1927. The trial ended on February 10, 1928 and the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada was that the Department of Fisheries did not have the authority to deny a fishing license to fishermen who were British subjects. The Attorney General of Canada immediately appealed the decision to the Privy Council of Great Britain. The Privy Council's verdict on October 29, 1929 upheld the Supreme Court decision and the Japanese fishermen won their case. The Department of Fisheries initiative to reduce the number of fishing licenses was derailed while the case was before the courts.

The many Japanese who were forced out of the fishing industry as a result of government policies had to find employment in other industries. One alternative was farming, so Teiji Kobayashi, Tadayoshi Kawase, Ryotaro Tanizawa, Gihei Takahashi and others organized an agricultural association in 1927. This association purchased 430 acres of farmland and sold small parcels of land to Japanese fishermen driven out of the fishing industry.

PRE-WAR ERA 1928 – 1942

When the idea to start a Buddhist church was first discussed, there was much opposition from some Japanese people who thought this would create anti-Japanese feelings in the white and native populations. As previously mentioned, there was already discrimination against Japanese fishermen in the form of license restrictions and reduced

immigration. Reverend Zesei Kawasaki stated that, at the *Bussei Renmei* gathering on February 28, 1928, there was strong opposition to the six speakers that night. Fortunately, the evening event ended without incident. Then, in March 1928, some Japanese people gathered at Tokumatsu Atagi's store, with Reverend Kawasaki of Vancouver leading the congregation in the chanting of the *Junirai*. The six or seven women in attendance requested that Reverend Kawasaki return every two months to conduct a service for the local Buddhists. Thus, the Buddhist seed was planted in Steveston.

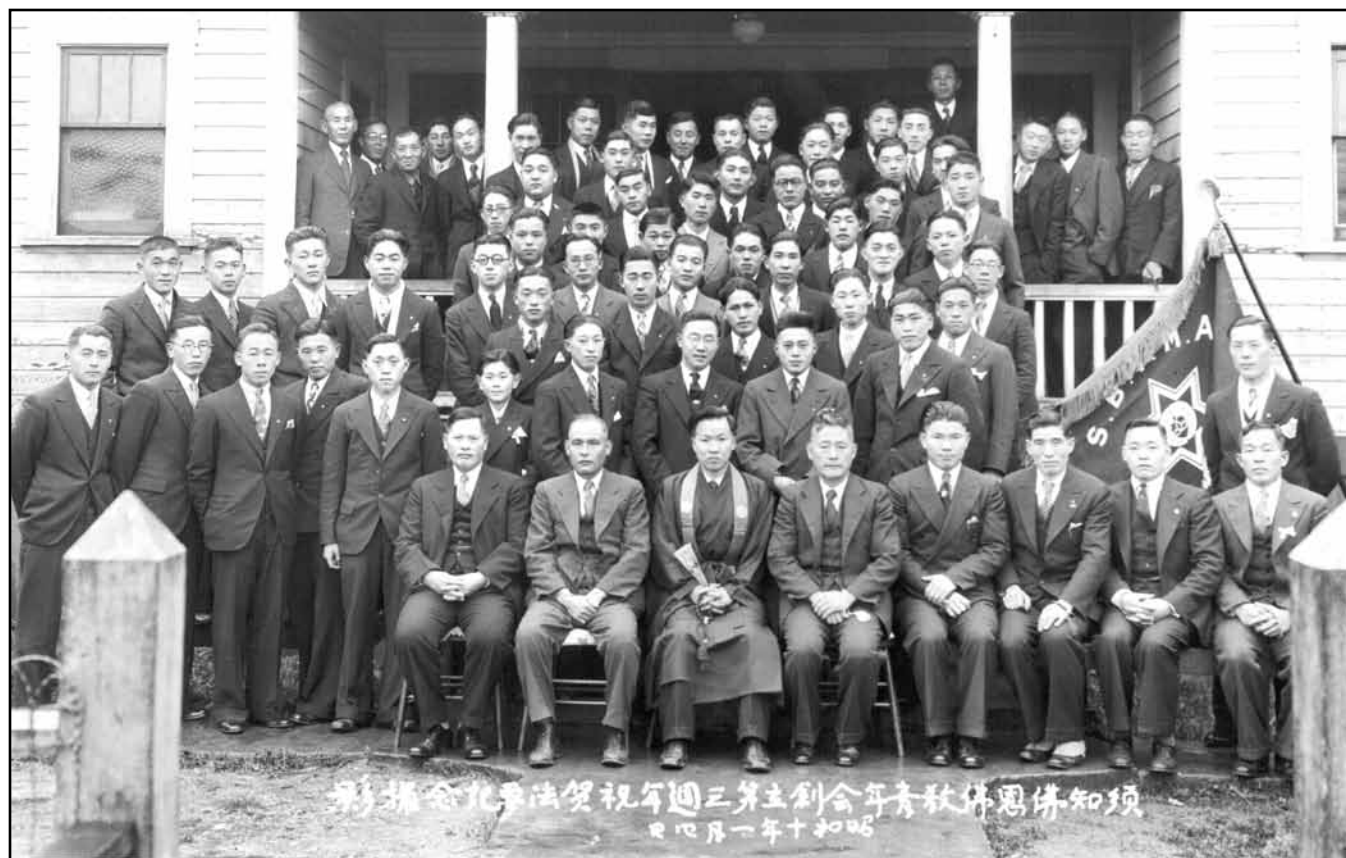
1928 - Start of the Steveston Buddhist Church at 1219 First Avenue

Discussions about the possibility of building a Buddhist church in Steveston began about 1924. However, because the Japanese fishermen were contending with government policies prohibiting them from fishing, the church debate was relegated to second place. They had serious problems on their hands and, as they agonizingly tried to resolve them, it was clear that the fishermen could not afford to pursue the building of the church at that time. For that reason, it was postponed.

The project did not get underway until the spring of 1927. As there were no further license reductions and the anticipated outcome of the British Privy Council was favourable, the Buddhists started to proceed with the building of the church. A managing staff was appointed and a building fund was started.

At that time, Steveston was divided into eleven districts and fundraisers were selected for each district to campaign for funds. The total budgeted building expenses were \$8,000. Seijiro Koba, a master carpenter from Ocean Falls, was contracted to build the temple, assisted by Tsunematsu Atagi and others with carpentry skills. The property on First Avenue was purchased for about \$8,000. The building costs were \$5,000 for the main hall and \$3,000 for the youth hall, for a total cost of \$16,000.

In the spring of 1928, a splendid church building and a Young Buddhists' Hall were finished. The hall was later enlarged with a second floor, which was used as the minister's residence. A one-



Members of the Seinenkai (Young Men's Society) taken on steps of the Steveston Buddhist Temple. Reverend Mohri seated third from left in front row. (1935)

storey annex hall was also built. The long-awaited Steveston Buddhist Church was finally completed and was officially dedicated on September 14, 1928.

Services were held under the guidance of Reverend Tada of Vancouver. The Steveston church had a congregation of about 200 families; the first minister was Reverend Yosaku Yamashita, followed by Reverend Masatsugu Mohri and Reverend Toshio Katatsu. The first president was Jiromatsu Atode, followed by Kuranosuke Hashimoto.

Some of the directors were also involved in the initial proposal to build the church. In 1929, the membership fee was \$1 per year but was later increased to \$2. Many donations were also received from the Japanese community in general. The Steveston church had to request ministers from Vancouver or other temples to perform services and give *Dharma* talks.

Directors at this time generally served two-year terms. The detailed order of their two-year

appointments is uncertain because some of the records have been lost. However, it is known that the following persons served as president of the board: Kuranosuke Hashimoto, Yosaku Yamashita, Unosuke Hamade, Shigetaro Nishi, Heizaburo Yamamoto.

An affiliated group, *Oyoriko*, was started in 1928. This organization was later renamed *Bukkyo Fujinkai* (Buddhist Women's Society) in 1932 and had about 160 members at that time. A Sunday School was also started. This was operated mainly by the church with help from the *Fujinkai*. Eight ladies volunteered as teachers and helped with the administration of the school. There were 160 Sunday School students.

The Young Buddhist Men's Society (*Bukkyo Seinenkai*) was formed with 60 members and an inauguration ceremony was held in January 1932. This group organized lectures, *Dharma* study and athletic and cultural activities. They were also

involved in the community, with sixty young men volunteering as a fire brigade with the local fire department. At that time, Steveston was frequently ravaged by fires and the fire department was inadequate, so the efforts of the *Seinenkai* were greatly appreciated by the townspeople.

In November 1929, the congregation had started the *Bukkyo Shojokai* (Buddhist Young Women's Society), a group for girls aged 14 and up, with 65 members initially. At meetings, they memorized scriptures and learned various handicrafts. This group held oratorical contests, discussions and debates with other youth groups from Vancouver and Seattle.

The powerful oratories of the youth were regarded as especially remarkable in Japanese society. They claimed that, under the compassionate light of *Amida*, emphasizing fairness and purifying themselves, they had to take a big step out into Canadian society. A monthly newsletter, "*Gyo Sho*", was published.

June 5, 1933 marked the arrival of Reverend Masatsugu Mohri, who was assigned as the resident minister of the Steveston Buddhist Church. It was an event long awaited by all members of the church. Mrs. Mohri, wife of the minister, guided the *Bukkyo Shojokai* in many of these activities.



Reverend Masatsugu Mohri (ca. 1935)

In 1936, the *Bukkyo Shojokai* was renamed *Bukkyo Joshi Seinenkai* (Buddhist Young Women's Society). This new group added an oratory division and convened many gatherings that resulted in heated debates among the young women. They also organized bazaars at every opportunity, using the income from these activities for their operating fund. Although the order is uncertain, the following young ladies were elected president of the society: Matsu Nishi (Takasaki), Ayako Ikari



Interior of the First Avenue Steveston Buddhist Temple reverend's residence. From left: Mrs. Ei Sakai, Mrs. Katatsu, Mrs. Mume Sakiyama and Misono Katatsu (child in middle). (ca. 1940)

(Yamamoto), Kimiko Sakai (Sugimoto), Kiyoko Yoshida (Tsuji), Kazue Mori (Sakata).

There were considerable developments in the activities of the church and its affiliated societies as these organizations evolved and matured.

The year after Reverend Mohri's arrival, he presided over 218 *Nenki hoyo* (annual memorial day services), 8 *Sohgi* (funerals) and 1 *Konrei* (wedding). In 1936, he presided over 183 *Nenki hoyo*, 13 *Sohgi* and 7 *Konrei*. In 1938, he participated in over 204 *Nenki hoyo*, 7 *Sohgi* and 6 *Konrei*. These figures include only services held by individuals and do not include services held by various organizations.

To fund church operations, many individuals made donations during three big services held every year, eliminating the need to ask for additional donations. Fees for memorials, weddings, funerals and hall rentals were fixed.

A census conducted in 1934 showed the Japanese population in Steveston to be 1,929, of which 747 were born in Japan and 1,182 were born in Canada. There were 515 males and 11 females with jobs and 1,141 unemployed persons who were counted as family dependents. At this time, many second generation young people were of marriageable age. However, there were few weddings because many young people did not have jobs.

Reverend Masatsugu Mohri returned to Japan in 1938 and was replaced by Reverend Toshio Katatsu who stayed until the evacuation in 1942.

He eagerly reached out to young people during his term as minister.

On December 7, 1941, the Pacific War erupted. At this point, the operations of the Steveston Buddhist Church came to a grinding halt. With the evacuation order issued in the spring of 1942, all persons of Japanese heritage were forced from the Pacific coast and dispersed to the interior of British Columbia and other provinces

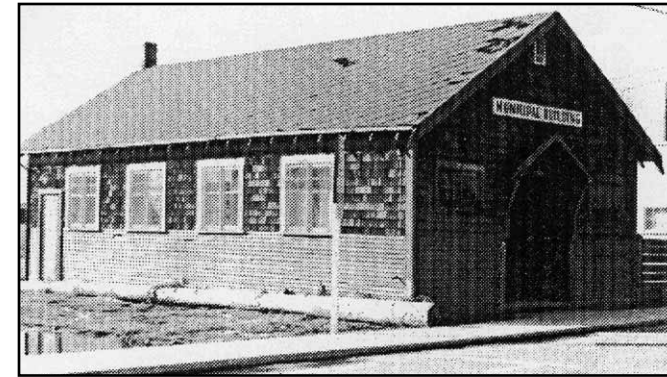


Reverend Toshio Katatsu. (ca. 1940)

During the evacuation, the church was converted to the “Steva” movie theatre. (This site is currently occupied by a visual and performing arts centre called the “The Arts Connection” just south of the Royal Bank parking lot.) Reverend Katatsu moved with the *Gohonzon* of the Steveston Buddhist Church to Lemon Creek in the Kootenays. Until the Japanese were able to return to the Pacific coast in 1949, the activities of the Steveston Buddhist Church were suspended.

Chapter 2

POST-EVACUATION ERA: 1949 TO 1963



Red Cross Hall on Third Avenue near Chatham Street. (ca. 1960)

Red Cross Hall

Although World War II ended in 1945, the Japanese were not allowed to return to the West Coast until April 1949. However, travel, fear of discrimination, financial hardship and employment restrictions prevented their immediate return. It took a few years for many families to re-establish their lives in Steveston. Finding fishing boats, places to live, jobs and schools for their children made it a very stressful time for the returning Japanese Canadians. It was like starting their lives all over again from square one.

By 1951, many Japanese fishermen had returned to Steveston and their catches were very good that year. As people settled down, thoughts turned to building a Buddhist temple and its supporters became stronger.

In January 1952, a *Ho-on-ko* service officiated by Reverend Shinjo Ikuta was held at the Steveston Red Cross Hall. Reverend Ikuta, who was from Kelowna, was serving the Lower Mainland area. He urged that Steveston recommence the *sangha*. On January 27, 1952, a meeting was held at the Red Cross Hall and a committee was formed with the goal of re-establishing the Steveston Buddhist Temple. The sixteen men elected to the committee were: Asamatsu Murakami, Nobuo Domai, Itsuji



Reverend Shinjo Ikuta. (1966)

Hamade, Kiichiro Shirakawa, Tokujiro Maekawa, Kichinosuke Nishii, Eikichi Morishita, Mankichi Higo, Kumataro Sakiyama, Soichi Uyeyama, Tokichi Niwatsukino, Chuzo Koyanagi, Fukumatsu Sakiyama, Masaji Hamano, Moriji Tanigami and Hitoshi Tanaka. Dividing Steveston into three districts, the committee members visited every house to recruit temple members.

Soon after the first *Ho-on-ko* service was held in the rented Red Cross Hall on Third Avenue, the 50-member congregation elected an executive board. A list of the first elected executives can be found in Appendix IV. Coincidentally, *Gomonshu* Kosho Ohtani and Lady Yoshiko Ohtani made an official visit from Hongwanji to the Lower



Gomonshu Kosho Ohtani and Lady Yoshiko Ohtani (seated). (1952)

Mainland area in November 1952. A memorial service for the deceased was held at the Steveston Red Cross Hall with the *Gomonshu* officiating. He also officiated at the installation service for the new Steveston Buddhist Temple executives. Lady Ohtani requested that a *Fujinkai* group be organized and Mrs. Koito Okano became its first president.

Also in 1952, the Young Buddhists Association (YBA) and the Sunday School re-organized and met at the old Red Cross Hall, now considered a heritage

building. The first Sunday School service was held in September 1952.

At the first general meeting on January 18, 1953, the congregation wrote and adopted the constitution for the Buddhist temple. The new executive board decided that the Red Cross Hall was too small and a larger building was sought. The first church on First Avenue had been appropriated by the government during the war years. This building was sold for \$8,497 on July 19, 1953. The custodian of the old church processed this sale.

Japanese Kindergarten School

In March 1954, the former Japanese Kindergarten School on Chatham Street was purchased with the money from the sale of the old church. An additional \$4,000 was borrowed from Itsuji Hamade to complete the financing. The building required some renovations to suit the uses of the temple. However, the majority of the members had just relocated with their families to Steveston and were not in a financial position to make donations to the church.

With a larger facility on Chatham Street, more functions were held. Between 80 and 90 children attended the Sunday School. The YBA held



Steveston Buddhist Temple on Chatham Street. (1956)



Dharma school officials and students on the steps of the Chatham Street Temple. (1956)

oratorical contests, Miss *Bussei* contests, dances and other activities. The *Fujinkai* offered cooking lessons, flower arranging and other classes.

The building also housed the Japanese Language School as well as *Judo/Kendo* classes. Unfortunately, the building's basement had poor drainage and, on days with heavy rain, the floor would be flooded. Some senior members recall walking on planks when using the flooded basement rooms. During funeral services, the floor would creak with the large number of people in the main hall upstairs. The time had come for another move. In 1956, the Steveston Buddhist Temple registered with the B.C. Government under the Societies Act.

Chapter 3

THE MOVE TO 4360 GARRY STREET



Steveston Buddhist Temple on Garry Street. (2008)

The New Temple

The executives were presented with a difficult decision. Many of the Buddhist families did not own automobiles in 1957, so the location of the temple on Chatham Street was very convenient for the majority of families who lived in the Steveston area (west of No. 1 road). It was within walking distance for many of them. To demolish and rebuild a new temple would mean renting another building for a year.

At the general meeting in January 1958, the agenda for rebuilding the Buddhist temple was discussed. The general opinion was that it was preferable to proceed gradually, as there were some problems with building it at that time. This matter took a more concrete form when the board members visited each household and explained the rebuilding plan. They also started collecting for the rebuilding fund. They raised \$5,494 which was allocated to a special fund.

The primary discussion at the board meeting on December 5, 1959 was the particulars of the fundraising campaign. It was decided that all members would contribute \$75 per year for three years. The Board members would visit supporters and enlist their cooperation in this campaign.

In the end, a 5-acre property (243-feet wide by 950-feet deep) at 4360 Garry Street was purchased for \$17,000 in 1960. This meant a massive fundraising drive was required to achieve their goal. A pledge of \$250 per family, payable over a 5-year period, plus special donations from many members and supporters made it possible to start building the new temple on Garry Street.

The Board members consulted Mr. Arnulf Petzold for his opinion on their ideas regarding the style of the Buddhist temple building. Although Mr. Petzold was born in England of German descent, he had spent much of his life in Tokyo. He studied architecture in Germany and returned to Japan to

**Arnulf H. Petzold 1905 - 1985 [A Retrospective by S. J. Archer
(originally published in the JCCA BULLETIN, December, 1985)]**

The life and career of Arnulf Heimdal Petzold, a long time friend of the Vancouver Nikkei community, was marked by a profound understanding and love of Japanese culture which he brought to life most fully in his distinctive architectural works.

Born in London, England in 1905, the talented architect and scholar undoubtedly owed much of his unique vision to the influence of his gifted and cosmopolitan parents. Bruno, his German father, was a writer and journalist whose successful career as a foreign correspondent for the German press had taken him to such world centres as Paris, London and Tsintsin, China. His mother, Hanka Schjedlerup, a Norwegian, once studied in Paris under Franz Liszt, and eventually became an internationally recognized singer and pianist. She lived for awhile in China and while there, she was invited to make a concert tour of Japan. Her fascination for the beauty of that country coupled with the enthusiasm for European music in Meiji Japan, resulted in a teaching position at the Uyeno Academy of Music.

In 1910; Bruno Petzold followed his wife and five-year old son to Japan where his interest in the pageantry of religious festivals eventually led to a life-long passion for the study for Buddhism. Although the outbreak of WW I terminated his work for the German press, the Petzolds, through Japan's magnanimous policy of not interning peaceful enemy nationals, were allowed to pursue their interests. Bruno was, in fact, appointed by the Department of Education as a teacher of German at the Dai-Ichi Kotogakko. His deepening interest in Buddhism led to the research of original texts with such eminent scholars as H. Hoshino, Shimaji Daito and Hanayama Shinsho. In 1928, in recognition of his scholarly work and for his efforts in making the Tendai teaching known in the West, a special ceremony was performed at the Asakusa Kwannon Temple in which Bruno Petzold was formally appointed to the Rank of Daisozu or High Priest and his name entered to the Buddhist Tokusho. It was an honour never before conferred upon an European.

Living in Tokyo through his formative years, the young Arnulf acquired the distinctive Meiji-era language that came to characterize his manner. Following his graduation from the American School in Japan,

he travelled to Germany to study architecture. While there he met a young lady who would later travel half way around the world to Japan to become his wife.

Having completed his studies, he returned to Japan to establish his own practise in the cosmopolitan Tokyo of 1934. With his fluency in Japanese and the great demand for European-trained professionals, Mr. Petzold was able to land contracts for a wide variety of residential and institutional projects. Over the years his designs, which were popular with the international clientele of the day, became known for their integration of traditional Japanese materials and craftsmanship with elements from his European training. However, as with most of Tokyo, much of his unique work would not survive the bombings of WW II.

The war, which necessitated evacuation to the mountain village of Karuizawa in 1944, brought about a dramatic change in lifestyle for the Petzold family. Living more as peasants, they had their share of hardships and suffering, but the quality of life was in many ways, enhanced by the return to a simpler existence. With the destruction of Tokyo, however, they decided to take advantage of a coincidental British passport and in 1948, they left their beloved Japan for Canada.

The move to Vancouver signaled the start of a new life, and in due course, Mr. Petzold was able to again translate his unique understanding of traditional Japanese concepts into architectural form. In addition to a number of private residences, he tastefully applied his skills to several large projects such as the Martial Arts Centre in Steveston, as well as the Buddhist Church serving that community. With its decidedly Japanese flavour, the German Canadian Benevolent Society compound in Vancouver stands as yet another example of his singular vision.

Although he was active in community life throughout his career, Mr. Petzold, upon retirement, was able to devote more of his time to avocational pursuits such as painting. Following in his father's footsteps, he was also able to focus his attention on the publication of some of the remaining manuscripts the elder Petzold had written on Buddhism.

After suffering a stroke, Arnulf Heimdal Petzold entered a Vancouver nursing home and passed away on May 21, 1985.



Arnulf H. Petzold. 1905 -1985
meeting in February 1962, a Construction Committee was formed. When the Committee first convened, the accumulated total of the fund was \$10,101. A special reserve fund system would be

establish his practice, focusing on the construction of buildings in the oriental style, especially Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples. He moved to Vancouver after the Second World War.

At the annual

operated by the Bukkyokai and the Fujinkai who would put a part of their operating and surplus funds into the reserve fund. The reserve fund would also include money from:

- Donations from the Seinenkai
- Sales of raffle tickets at Engeikai (performance of amateur entertainers-young members of the Bukkyokai)
- Profits from bingo games

The Construction Committee approved the design of the Buddhist temple by Mr. Arnulf Petzold.

In February 1963, the Kuwa-ire-shiki (ground-breaking ceremony) was performed. The Turnbull & Gale Construction Company had submitted the successful bid of \$86,398 for the main construction work and it was started immediately.



Construction committee at sod turning event at the future site of the Steveston Buddhist Temple. From the left; Tokutaro Teramura, Yokichi Ishida, Rev. Shinjo Ikuta, Roy Akune, Yoneichi Sakai, Rev. Kyojo Ikuta, Kuni Ikuta, and Yuichi Akune. (1963)



Steveston Buddhist Temple under construction. (1963)

The building was completed in December 1963 and the opening service, led by Reverend Kyojo Ikuta, was held on December 23, 1963. *Nyu butsu shiki* (a ceremony to put the spirit of *Amida* into *Go hon zon*), was performed by Reverend Kyojo Ikuta at the newly built Steveston Temple. It was a proud moment and a happy occasion for all members, but especially for the executives and the Fundraising Committee who had worked countless hours to achieve this dream. The younger generation has benefited from this wise decision by past executives and, indeed, is very grateful to those pioneers.

Information about the building:

Size	8,000 square feet
Contract Price	\$100,000
Architect	Arnulf H. Petzold
Contractor	Turnbull & Gale Construction Co.

As well as the main contract, there were other miscellaneous jobs, such as landscaping, that required additional funding. In November and December 1963, the Committee borrowed a total of \$20,000 from the bank.

For two days, on March 6 and 7, 1965, a solemn service was held to honour the previously deceased and the dedication ceremony for completion of the temple with over 400 people in attendance. In

attendance were Bishop Shinsho Hanayama, Rev. Kyojo Ikuta, Rev. Koyo Okuda and Rinban Kenryo Kumata. To commemorate the *Nyu butsu shiki*, the Ko myo ji Temple (Reverend Enkai Miwa) of Mio, Wakayama Prefecture presented a full set of *uchi-shiki* (decorative covering cloths for *Naijin* tables).

The *Ho-Zen-Ji* Temple (Reverend Hodo Okamoto), also of Mio, Wakayama Prefecture, presented a set consisting of an incense burner and an incense box.

The beautiful *Butsudan*, made of very hard sandalwood, was once owned by Mrs. Toshi Tanaka, a cousin of Mrs. Shinjo Ikuta. She had it while she was in Dailen, Manchuria. The *Amida* statue enshrined within had historical significance to the former *Gomonshu*, the Reverend Kozui Otani, who worshipped it while he lived in Dailen. The *Bukkyokai* and *Fujinkai* bought this statue for the temple.

The Property Exchange

The five-acre property purchased in 1960 was very long and narrow (243-feet wide by 950-feet deep). The south property line abutted the existing railway track at that time. In 1959, when the *Fujinkai* wanted to build the manse at the back of the gravel parking lot, the Richmond Building Department suggested a property exchange. Thus,



Mitts Sakai and George Koyanagi cutting cake at the 10th anniversary of the construction of the gymnasium. (1983)

after the land swap, the manse was built fronting on Garry Street. After the exchange, the temple property became wider and more square in shape and the City ended up with a continuous park, so both the temple and the City benefited from this cooperative move.

The Gymnasium Addition

In light of the need to have a social hall, a room for the youth group to hold sports activities and an alternate room for holding Bingo games instead of using the *Hondo*, a decision was made to build a gymnasium. Mr. Arnulf Petzold was again asked to design the addition. It was built by G.E. Shaw Construction Ltd. and completed in 1973. The project was financed mainly by Bingo profits and special donations by members.

Building the Manse

In 1970, the *Fujinkai* ladies decided to build the minister's manse at 4300 Garry Street. Through numerous fundraising projects, such as food bazaars and donations, the ladies made a major contribution toward temple requirements. The manse was built by Fraserview Construction for \$22,300.

Subdivision on Fentiman Road

The Board decided to subdivide the vacant west side of the temple grounds because of high property taxes on land deemed in excess of religious needs and with no future plans for unused land.



Steveston Buddhist Temple manse on Garry Street. (2010)

In 1996, an eight-lot subdivision of the grounds was completed. The south corner lot was donated to the Buddhist Church of Canada (BCC) and is presently the headquarters of this organization. This donated lot was valued at \$220,000 and was the key to building the BCC Headquarters. Until then, the BCC had been using rental premises for their office and the Bishop's residence. Finally, they had a permanent home. The remaining seven lots were sold and, after deducting development costs for such things as roads, sewer, electricity, engineering, etc., the temple was left with a sizeable Sustaining Fund of approximately \$800,000.

In 1997, the Board passed a motion to keep a principal amount of \$500,000 in the Sustaining Fund, allocating only the interest portion for future use. This fund was managed by RBC Dominion Securities and, fortunately, has experienced steady growth.

Sustaining Fund Investments: Kitchen Addition

From the sale of the property, some of the funds were used to enlarge the kitchen facilities. The kitchen addition was built in 1998 to add two rice cookers, counters and a sink, plus a change room and a storage room. This addition gave the *Fujinkai* ladies more space to work and more room for storage, which was lacking before. The kitchen addition was designed by architect Bud Sakamoto and the work was done by Kishiuchi Construction Ltd. for \$200,000.

Columbarium

The Columbarium was designed by Bud Sakamoto and completed for the 75th Anniversary dedication in 2003. Serving on the Columbarium Committee were Reverend Izumi, Reverend Hattori and Reverend Kikuchi, Kaz Tasaka, Kiyo Domai, Steve Morishita, Mitts Sakai, Bud Sakamoto, and Junko Hazama.



Exterior of the Columbarium completed for the 75th Anniversary dedication of the Temple. (2003)

The library room (the former nursery room) was used to install 174 niches (144 standard-size and 30 larger-size) plus a *butsudan*. The room was dry-walled, painted and prepared by Kaz Tasaka.

The niches were built by Sam's Woodworks Ltd. for a cost of \$32,269 installed. The outside memorial garden was prepared by Kaz Tasaka and Mitts Sakai. Fortunately, Junko Hazama was in the granite business and was able to supply the granite monument for the wholesale price of \$4,400. The project was built under budget at \$80,000. Visitors



Interior of Steveston Buddhist Temple columbarium. (2003)



Granite bench donated by the Tasaka (above) and Matsumura families (below). (ca. 2005)



from other temples have all complimented us on our *nokotsudo* and many new members have joined the *Otera* since its completion.

Two granite benches were donated by the Matsumura family "In Memory of Seitaro Matsumura" and the Tasaka family "In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Arizo Tasaka".

A sprinkler system was installed in 2006 at a cost of \$2,500.

A Perpetual Care Fund was established to be used only for operational expenses, maintenance, improvements, expansion, accessories and expenses associated with the Columbarium.

The First Butsudan

In 1960, a very elaborate shrine was purchased from Mrs. Tomo Tanaka of Tokyo and installed at the *Otera*. This shrine was a personal one made to order for *Monshu* Kozui Otani, the 22nd *Monshu* of *Jodo Shinshu Nishi Hongwanji-ha*. After his retirement until the end of World War II, *Monshu* Kozui Otani lived in Shanghai, China where he had this shrine.



The First Butsudan of the Steveston Buddhist Temple.

The *Monshu* gave this shrine to his personal physician as a gesture of thanks. The wife of this doctor was Mrs. Mino Ikuta's cousin. Reverend Shinjo Ikuta persuaded Mrs. Tomo Tanaka to part with it and had it shipped in several cartons to Steveston from Tokyo. A special outer box was made by Mr. Masuo Hashimoto to protect the delicate, intricate *butsudan*. When the new temple was built on Garry Street, Mr. Nobuyuki Watanabe was hired to make an appropriate back wall for the Shrine.

The Second *Butsudan*



The Second Butsudan of the Steveston Buddhist Temple. (2010)

In 1982, a gold, life-size statue of *Amida Buddha* was installed. Mr. Watanabe was again consulted and asked to make additions. Little by little, the accessories for the statue were added.

The boxed-in *butsudan* from Tokyo was put in "storage" in the classroom until it was sold to the Buddhist Church of Canada headquarters where it was restored and installed by artisans from the *Yamatoku Butsugu-ya* in Kyoto in 1997.

Chapter 4

STEVESTON BUDDHIST TEMPLE ORGANIZATIONS and ACTIVITIES



Founding members of the Steveston Buddhist Temple Fujinkai. (1956)

FUJINKAI

Oyoriko, the founding body of the Steveston Buddhist Temple *Fujinkai*, was started simultaneously with the Steveston Buddhist Church in 1928. The name was changed and the *Fujinkai* officially came into being in 1932. The following year, Reverend Mohri, our first minister, took office. The *Fujinkai*, under the guidance of Mrs. Mohri, carried out various activities and thus made great contributions as an ancillary organization that supported the *Bukkyokai*. At that time, there were more than 130 members.

With the outbreak of World War II, however, compulsory evacuation began and the members dispersed throughout Canada, with many members moving to the interior of B.C., Alberta, Manitoba,

Ontario and Quebec.

After the end of the war, the *Bukkyokai* was restored in 1952 and the women who wished to see the *Fujinkai* revived, got together at Mrs. Okano's house. They drafted rules and regulations for their organizations. With the visitation of Gomonshu Koshu Ohtani, the *Zen Monshu* and *Zenurakata*, the *Fujinkai* was reborn with a total of 96 members. By 2010, more than two-thirds of the charter members were deceased.

Among their more noteworthy activities, the *Fujinkai* gave financial assistance to the Asoka Hospital and to Japanese children in the form of *Omochi dai*. At the same time, the *Fujinkai* gave material help by sending used clothing to war orphans through the Red Cross. Every spring, *Fujinkai* vis-



50th Anniversary celebrations of the Fujinkai. (2002)

its the senior residences in Richmond with flowers.

From 1956 until 1974, the *Fujinkai* held joint food bazaars with the Japanese Language School and the *Bukkyokai*. The proceeds collected from these events were used to purchase the main alcove and *Rindo* lanterns as well as the chairs in the main hall.

A little later on, the topic of building a minister's manse came up and the membership's "50 cents a month" savings campaign was launched. The manse was completed in 1970 and furniture was also purchased. The *Fujinkai* also purchased kitchen utensils for the new manse. The management of a fully furnished manse was transferred to the *Bukkyokai* in 1992.

The *Fujinkai* subsequently made substantial contributions towards building the gymnasium and improving the parking lot, always working towards the development and prosperity of Buddhism.

In 1983, the *Fujinkai* joined the Buddhist Churches of Canada Women's Federation. Three years before the 9th World Buddhist Women's Convention in 1990, the *Fujinkai* attended the organizing meetings with the Vancouver and Fraser Valley churches. They also engaged in fundraising through

the sale of baked goods, etc.

The membership currently stands at 170 and actively supports various *Bukkyokai* activities. In addition, the *Fujinkai* generously assists with *otoki* after all funeral services and also after major *Bukkyokai* services. The *Fujinkai* also holds an annual *Eshinniko* memorial service and the *Dana* Day service as proposed by the World Buddhist Women's Federation. Proceeds from the *Dana* Day service are forwarded to the Women's Federation headquarters for social welfare causes. For several years, funds were forwarded to Kenya to assist a hospital and also to provide for a water purification project.

Proceeds from the *Eshinniko* memorial service are used to assist Buddhist youth.

THE YOUNG BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION (YBA)

The Young Buddhist Association, consisting of young people from about fifteen to twenty years of age, was started in 1952 under the guidance of Reverend Shinjo Ikuta and Mrs. Ikuta.

Many activities were planned and enjoyed, including informal religious discussions that took place at different homes. An "activity night" was



Young Buddhist Association members at a dance held at the Richmond High School. (1958)

held at the temple with members from Vancouver and Aldergrove attending. This activity night became a joint Friday night event with the Steveston United Church youth group, hosted by each group alternately. The group also enjoyed outings, such as clam bakes at Crescent Beach, softball games with the Vancouver YBA, *matsutake* (pine mushroom) picking with the Aldergrove group and a day trip with the Seattle YBA to Rosario Beach Park in Washington.

In 1964, the Steveston YBA started the *Keiro-*

kai by inviting all seniors in our community aged 70 and older to a luncheon held in their honour. The YBA ladies prepared the meal with the assistance of the Junior YBA ladies. Transportation was provided by young men who were able to acquire their family vehicle. *Obento* (lunch boxes) were delivered to those seniors who could not attend.

The annual Buddhist Convention began as the British Columbia Young Buddhist League (BCYBL) Convention in 1954. At that time, Vancouver, Kelowna, Kamloops and Steveston were the temples involved. The Convention consisted of the usual annual meeting, religious discussions and *Dharma* talks. Also included were an oratorical contest, a Miss *Bussei* contest and bowling. Each of the four YBA groups hosted this convention in turn every four years.

Our YBA continued until 1967 when the YABA (Young Adult Buddhist Association) was formed to make way for younger members to join the YBA. Many of the former Steveston YBA members became members of the YABA.

The Young Adult Buddhist Association was formed on February 5, 1967. The first President was Toshiaki Hamaguchi.



Kay Sakata, Itsuji Hamade, Kazue Oye, Chiyoko Sakata and Shizuka Akune at Keirokai.



Bingo callers and participants in the Steveston Buddhist Temple gymnasium.

One of the projects for the newly formed group was to start bingo as a fundraising activity. However, the first four weeks of bingo resulted in a loss and the committee held an emergency meeting to discuss whether to continue or cancel the event. The group decided to give it a good try since the Catholic Church had held successful bingo nights for many years. It eventually took off. Bingo games were held in the *Hondo* and, with all the smoking, a special ceiling exhaust fan was installed. Eventually, it was moved to the gymnasium and the classroom was designated as a non-smoking room.

The successful Bingo fundraising has made it possible for our church to add a gymnasium, black-top the parking lot, build a storage room behind the gym and keep the membership dues at a minimum. Over 40 years, bingo has raised over 1.4 million dollars. In the beginning, the *Fujinkai* worked hard to provide free *chow mein* for Bingo players once a month. The *Fujinkai* ladies made sandwiches to sell for refreshments. In those days, as many as 500 people would come to play bingo at the temple. There were many bingo games in Richmond at that time – at Saint Alban's, the Skyline Hotel, the Orange Hall, the Legion Hall, Minoru Pavilion, St. Joseph's Church and South Arm Community Centre, to name a few.

We are very fortunate to have had a continuous core of dedicated volunteers since October 16, 1967. Dedicated helpers over the years have included: George Koyanagi (who was the first treasurer &

caller), Mike Kokubo, Johnny Toyoda, Kaz Yamamoto, Mr. & Mrs. T. Yamanaka, Masuo Hashimoto, Yoneharu Maede, Eiichi Harada, Johnny Kariya, Sam Akizuki, Tadasu Hibi, Sam Kondo, Sharky Kobayashi, Tom Hirose, Sammy Sameshima, Yoneharu Tanaka, Yoneji Kawabata, Toshio Murao, Steve Morishita, Keizo Nishikihama, Hideo Kokubo, Kaz Tasaka, Kazuji Murao, Tak Miyazaki, Isao Nishi, John Yamamoto, Hozie Sakata, Dave Matsuo, Vern Kuramoto, Yoshiharu Nishikihama, Don Narukami, Terry Sakai, Herby Koyanagi, Doc Tomihiro, Mitts Sakai, Jack Kawabata, Kuni Ikuta, Mak Ikuta, Victor Kawabata, Sam Shinde, Kiyoshi Tani, Roy Akune, Ken Yoshihara (non-member), Seishi Matsuno, Ted Hirose, Setsuo Hayashi, Kiyo Domai, Larry Ryan, Bud Sakamoto, Pat Yetman, Terry Kondo, Norman Kondo, Tom Yamamoto, Francis Aug, Marge Sakai, Chizu Nakatsu and Tsuyoshi Nakatsu (apologies if any names were missed).

We also owe many thanks to the Bowling, *Judo* and *Kendo* Clubs who assisted during July and August to give our Bingo volunteers a break during the summer months.

Other group events included the New Year's Dance, which was very well attended (250 to 300 persons) by temple members as well as non-members. The gym was decorated and music was supplied by a disc jockey. There were dancing classes during the winter months with Mike Kokubo (who held an Arthur Murray dance school certificate) and Pat Nikleva as instructors. The YABA Bowling league at the Seafair Bowling Alley was in full swing before moving to the Shellmount Bowling Alley.

The YABA conducted a fundraising campaign during Reverend Okada's ministry to buy a large gong used by the minister during the service.

The group also sponsored a golf tournament, which was usually organized by Kuni Ikuta. This was quite



Gong purchased by the Young Adult Buddhist Association and used during the service. (2010)

popular for some time but interest in the event has slowly waned.

YABA Presidents include: Tosh Hamaguchi (1967), Roy Akune (1968), Johnny Toyoda (1969), Mitts Sakai & Tak Miyazaki (1970), Harry Okano & Tom Hirose (1971, 1972), Doc Tomihiro & Harry Okano (1973), Don Narukami & Ray Inouye (1974), Wes Nishi (1975), Doc Tomihiro (1976), Terry Sakai (1977), Ray Inouye (1978), Kaz Tasaka & Mitts Sakai (1979), Mits Tanigami (1980), Herby Koyanagi (1981).

DHARMA SCHOOL: 1952 – 2010

The return of many Japanese fishermen and their families in late 1949 and the early 1950s was the beginning of post-war Sunday School (*Dharma School*) in Steveston. Under the guidance of Shinjo Ikuta Sensei, Sunday School was organized. The first Sunday School Service was held in September, 1952 in the Red Cross Hall on Third Avenue. In the beginning, enrollment seemed to be comprised of children from a few families, but in the next several years the number of children increased dramatically.

In 1954, the pre-war Kindergarten building on Chatham Street was purchased as the new Steveston Buddhist Church, as it was called then. The location was ideal as it was close enough for many of the children to walk to Sunday School. The building was indeed, a wonderful place to nurture children who were by now, numbering over 100. Classes were held with children sitting on chairs clustered in small groups all over the *Hondo*. The overflow



Bob Akune with Dharma school students. (1956)



Dharma School teachers and advisors on the steps of the Chatham Street Temple. (1956)

of children would have their classes downstairs, wherever there was room. During the rainy season, the basement would flood periodically and classes could not be held. Despite all the physical problems that the "old" building caused, Sunday morning was a "fun" time of gathering with friends to learn about the teachings of *Amida Buddha*. During this period, there were so many children in attendance that many teenagers were recruited to teach. They became 'teacher assistants' to older teachers. Some of the older teachers were Alice and Peggy Sakiyama, Henry and Betty Morishita, Nancy Kobayashi and Roy Akune.

In the 1950s and throughout the 1960s, Sunday School in Steveston was in its 'heyday' as approximately a hundred children were in attendance. In those days, there was no Sunday shopping and few organized sports that the children could participate in. Also, Steveston was still a somewhat, isolated community where many of the fisher fathers and cannery worker mothers did not have the time nor the means to take their children outside the community for extracurricular activities. *Dharma School* benefited and it flourished, for the temple was a place not only for spiritual guidance but a place where the children could meet with their friends. *Dharma* talks, *Dharma* lessons, stories, craft ses-

sions, singing, playing and always eating were all part of Sunday morning. Mak Ikuta, a gifted storyteller, has continued to entertain the children with his stories from the late 1950s to the present day.

It was also a time when very few families had vehicles, so buses were chartered for yearly picnics to Second Beach in Stanley Park. In the 1950s, adults still dressed up. After a set of children's races, one student recalled his father in a suit running in the adult egg race. The picnic was the high-light of the year, as mothers prepared delicious *obentos* to eat on the picnic grounds. In later years, Harbour Park in Ladner, and King George Park on Number 5 Road were other familiar picnic sites.

Kyojo Ikuta *Sensei* was our resident minister from 1958 to 1963 until he was assigned to the Vancouver Buddhist Church. His father, Shinjo Ikuta *Sensei*, although in his retirement years was the next minister from 1963 to 1966.

The *Bukkyokai* soon realized that the Chatham Street *Otera* was not functional and a new building was needed. In 1963, the present temple on Garry Street was built. *Dharma School*, as it was now called continued to flourish. The brand new temple was a bit further from the town core, but was still within walking distance for many children who lived in the Steveston area. By the 1960s, married couples with their young families were beginning to move outside the Steveston perimeter. Their children were either carpooled or driven by their parents to Sunday School. Alice (Sakiyama) Kokubo, said, "I used to take my own children, then picked up many of the children in Seafair and drove them all to *Dharma School*."

When Ikuta *Sensei* retired in 1966, Takaaki Nagatani *Sensei* arrived from Japan as our new minister. During his stay in Steveston, he met and married Kayo Hibi, a member of our *Dharma School* (no longer called Sunday School). A wedding shower was put on for them by the *Dharma School* staff. When *Sensei* and Kayo returned to Japan in 1970, Takamichi Takahatake *Sensei* from Montreal became our next minister. His stay was very short as he left after one year.

In 1971, Hoshin Okada *Sensei* with Mrs. Tokiko Okada and their young family arrived from Montre-

al. Their daughter, Mona was a newborn baby when they moved to Steveston. They also had two other pre-schoolers, Nori and Yuka. We enjoyed watching Nori, Yuka and Mona grow as children attending *Dharma School* for the next eleven years.

During this period, *Dharma School* combined forces with the other *Dharma Schools* in B. C. to publish the "*Dharma*" newsletter two or three times a year. This newsletter with articles from teachers and children was published well into the early 1990s. In an October 1978 issue, 7-year old Christine Koyanagi of Lotus Class wrote: "*Why do we say Namu Amida Butsu? Because to thank you, Lord Buddha before supper, before bedtime and in the morning when we wake up.*" June Ikuta was the teacher of Lotus Class.

Camping trips were organized and the children were taken to Alice Lake, Manning Park, Alouette Lake and Gambier Island. One exciting excursion was an airplane ride over the Lower Mainland. Field trips were made to the Aquarium in Stanley Park, Fish Hatchery in the Fraser Valley, Lighthouse Park in West Vancouver, for snow-sledding at Cypress Mountain, watching Vancouver Grizzly basketball games at GM Place and to bowling alleys and movie theatres. Visits to Vancouver *Dharma School*, Seattle *Betsuin*, November Family Conventions and the Pacific Northwest Conventions in Washington enabled the children to meet and interact with other Buddhist children. Ruth Iwata recalled a trip to Seattle. "*I remember hitting the temple bell in the park across the street and the big sleep-overs in the classrooms*". Thanks to the assistance of many supportive parents these excursions were able to happen.

In 1982, we bid farewell to the Okada family as *Sensei* was assigned to Lethbridge Alberta and Gyosho Abe *Sensei*, a bachelor from Japan became the next minister. He remained until Sammi Kiribayashi *Sensei* arrived with his young family in 1988. Kazuki, Mari and Eri were wonderful additions to *Dharma School*. *Sensei* and his wife, Yumiko-san had their fourth child, Noriko in 1991 in Richmond. After eight years, once again, we lost our minister in the spring of 1996, as the Kiribayashis left for Japan.

For years, the first *Dharma School* session in September started with a pancake breakfast. This tradition, as well as many other luncheons, still carries on today. Participation in the Terry Fox Run is a new tradition that was started in September, 2009.

In April, *Hanamatsuri*, the birth of *Shakyamuni Buddha*, is a big celebration. The children's attendance at *Dharma School* is recognized with gifts. Students entertain the congregation by playing the piano, singing, dancing or pounding *Taiko* drums. Robert Bressler and Reiko Domai were a couple of the regular entertainers.

The Manning Park Retreat was a Y.B.A. outing in the fifties but in the eighties it became a get-together for all B.C. *Dharma School* children and their families. The May-long weekend meant the meeting of new friends and the re-acquaintance with old friends. The fun and camaraderie at the Retreat has fostered deep friendships for many of our young people.

Dharma School has donated to various charities such as the Vancouver Sun's Save the Children Fund and the Children's Variety Club Telethon. The other 'Dana' program that we have continued to participate in since the 1980s is the Foster Parent Plan. A child from Thailand is our current foster child.

In 1997, Nariyuki Hattori *Sensei* started his tenure as resident minister. He remained at our temple until Yasuo Izumi *Sensei* came in 1998. After serving for four years, Izumi *Sensei* was transferred to Southern Alberta. Hattori *Sensei* returned to Steveston in 2003. It was an exciting time when Hattori *Sensei* married Sonoko Ishiyama. A year later they had their first child, Toko. Hattori (Ishiyama) *Sensei* was called back to Japan to fulfill duties at his wife, Sonoko-san's family temple in 2005.

In November 2005, our first female *sensei*, Masumi Kikuchi, arrived from Toronto. With great enthusiasm, she revitalized the *Dharma School* program which in recent years had started to wane. In January 2007, a monthly *Dharma School* service beginning at 10 a.m. and classes immediately following at 10:30 a.m. were initiated. Classes consisted of hands-on activities such as cooking, baking, and making crafts. Two young ladies, Alisa Sakamoto



Nariyuki Hattori and Sonoko Ishiyama (centre) at a wedding reception held at the Steveston Buddhist Temple. (2003)

and Reiko Domai, were the teachers.

In March 2008, we said farewell to Kikuchi *Sensei* who returned to Japan for medical reasons. In July 2008, Grant Ikuta *Sensei*, his wife, Norikosan, and their four children arrived from Toronto. The Ikuta family has certainly brightened and livened the halls of our temple. An exciting *Dharma School* program continues under the guidance of Grant *Sensei*. Currently, teachers, Shannon Turner and Misaye Hamaura, are assisted by Mayumi Iwase.

In commemorating 80-plus years of the Steveston Buddhist Temple's existence, we look back with deep appreciation and gratitude to the *Sensei*, teachers, parents and children who made the *Dharma School* possible. Now, we are working with Grant Ikuta *Sensei*, our spiritual leader, as he guides us into the future carrying on with the legacy that our forefathers have left us.

Memories of Former *Dharma School* Students

Bill Miyazaki was a *Dharma School* student in the 1950s and 1960s and taught *Dharma School* in the 1970s.

"My fondest recollection goes, way, way back Would you believe 1958 or earlier! Those were the days when Rev. Shinjo Ikuta was semi-retired, but conducted the services when his son, Rev. K. Ikuta was not available. All of Rev. Ikuta's *Dharma* talks were in Japanese!! With my limited knowledge of Japanese, I always listened politely and tried my best to understand. In reflecting back now, there was no need to understand every single word. His 'twin-

ling eyes and gentle words’ translation Amida Buddha’s infinite compassion surrounds us every single day of our lives.

On the lighter side, as a Sunday School kid, on those special services like Hanamatsuri and Obon I always looked forward to eating the huge triangular ‘onigiri’ served with raw wieners prepared by the Fujinkai ladies after the service.”

Mayumi Takasaki attended Sunday School in the 1950s and 1960s.

“The first thing that comes to mind when someone mentions Sunday School, (I come from the generation that didn’t say Dharma School. It’ll always be Sunday School to me.) is the incense. They say the sense of smell is the strongest in evoking memories. The smell of incense brings feelings of home, comfort and familiarity. When I went to Kyoto and attended a service at the Hongwanji, I was surprised to immediately feel comfortable and at home upon entering the Great Hall and being greeted by incense.

Special services like Hanamatsuri and Obon also meant treats for us Sunday School kids. We would wait patiently during the service until Sensei told us we could go outside to play while he gave his sermon to the adults. As we filed out we were each given a brown paper bag holding an orange and usually a manju – special treats for a special day.

My mom always loved little kids and so for several years she taught the youngest kids at Sunday School – Lumbini Class, I think. She really enjoyed being with the kids – teaching them how to hold the ojuzu and how to say Namu Amida Butsu.”

* The late Toshiko Takasaki is Mayumi’s mother.

Andy Watanabe talks about Dharma School in the 1980s.

“I remember my brother and I being picked up by Mak Ikuta or Misaye Hamaura every Sunday morning to go to Dharma School. After the Dharma School service, we would all go to our classes and apply our knowledge of the Dharma and the Sangha in the form of artwork. I will never forget the reciting of the Golden Chain. I will forever keep within

my heart, the true meaning of the Golden Chain from my days when I attended Dharma School.”

Alisa Sakamoto talks about Manning Park Retreat in the 1990s and into the 2000s.

“Great memories from Manning Park include:
- looking forward to seeing all my friends from the interior (Vernon and Kelowna)!

- winning the bocce tournament with all my friends

- roasting marshmallows and singing songs around the campfire with Doug (Masuhara).

- playing the Scavenger Hunt game in teams

- chasing after gophers.”

Memories of Dharma School Teachers

Peggy (Sakiyama) Nakano:

“The Steveston Buddhist Sunday School classes were very well attended in the 1950s when I served for several years as a Sunday School teacher until my marriage in 1959.

The classes were divided according to age and I believe the younger children who were 6 years of age were in Lumbini Class. We also had Bodhi, Dharma, Sangha and Siddhartha Classes. Siddhartha Class consisted mostly of older boys around the age of 11 or 12.

Sunday School began at 10:30 a.m. and we followed the general service program. We would open with a gatha, chant the Juni Rai and recite the Golden Chain or the Promise and break into classes where we taught about the life and teachings of Shakamuni Buddha.

Some of the highlights of the year would be the Hanamatsuri Service when the children would receive little token gifts for attending Sunday School and there was also a prize for the children who achieved Perfect Attendance. The children also took part in Sunday School concerts at the church. Picnics that I remember were held at Peace Arch Park and for a couple of years at Second Beach in Stanley Park, as it was a popular site for races and games. We also looked forward to the Obon Service and participating in the Obon odori.

When I left in March 1959, there were many younger prospects helping as assistant Sunday

School teachers. Some are, at the present time, still very actively involved at the Steveston Buddhist Temple.”

Mika Hibi:

“Mrs. (Toshiko) Takasaki, Mrs. (Michiyo) Morishita and I taught about a dozen Kindergarten and pre-school children. At this age they needed a lot of help. It was from the mid-sixties to about the time that Okada Sensei came. There were many teenagers helping at that time. I think my sister, Kayo had a class, too.”

Karen (Yamashita) Esson:

“I was helping around the late 1960s when the sensei was Nagatani. There were quite a few children of different ages because I think there were three classes. Mrs. (Kazuko) Atagi had the younger children and I had ages 8-9. Mildred Kjar and Rev. Nagatani had the older children. I recall being the MC for a Hanamatsuri Service because the service was longer than usual due to the number of children doing oshoko and the pouring of sweet tea.

I remember being in Church helping Ishidano-Ojisan with the cleaning of the brass of the Hotoke-san before Hanamatsuri. It was so quiet and eerie as there were only the two of us in the whole building cleaning in the kitchen. Ojisan would make comments about seeing shadows or ghosts of people who had passed away recently, as he was often by himself in the Hondo in the evening.”

* Karen attended Dharma School as a child and continued as a teacher in later years.

* Mr. T. Ishida was the *Naijin* attendant for our Otera for many years, from the 1950s to the 1980s.

Shannon Turner:

“I have been helping with Dharma School for two years now. I love working with the children and what better way for a beginner to learn about Buddhism than at Dharma School. After a child-friendly service in the Hondo, the children move to the classroom for lessons. Each month we learn about something different through stories, rhymes and activities. Many sessions involve cooking and then sharing with the Sangha. Some of the tasty

treats we have made have been pizzas, applesauce and apple tea and decorated cupcakes. But my favourite is stone soup. In November of last year, Mak Ikuta told us the story of how some journeying soldiers teach a village to share. The children brought a vegetable or two from home to contribute to our temple stone soup. While the soup was simmering, we made paper versions by gluing a stone to the centre of a paper plate and then cutting out our own ingredients. The results were some very interesting recipes. Best of all, is when everyone gathers to share the soup. It is truly a lovely lesson.”

*Shannon is a Dharma School teacher who attends services with her three young children.

TAIKO GROUP

The Taiko drum group originated from the Dharma (Sunday) School membership in the fall of 2000. The idea was to try to attract young Japanese Canadians to the Dharma School and to introduce Japanese culture to them. Roy Akune was very involved in organizing the group and start-up funding was provided by the Board of Directors. The Steveston Buddhist Temple Taiko Group was officially formed in late November and claims to be the first organized Taiko group in Richmond. The original group began with nine members: Lina Arima, Melissa Murakami, Jillian Masuhara, Kelly Masuhara, Nicole Masuhara, Doug Masuhara, Stacey Chan, Annie Lewis, and Glen Sakamoto. Judy Ogio, Miyuki Hamakawa and Kumiko Nagata joined at a later date.

The instructors at that time were Mr. Shinobu Homma and Ms. Naomi Shikaze. Both Shinobu and Naomi had many years of Taiko experience with Katari Taiko and helped to found Chibi Taiko, the first youth group.

At the start, the Taiko group had no equipment on which to practice, so they used old car tires for drums and made drumsticks from wood dowelling. They practiced this way for two years before they began making practice drums from plastic sewer pipes and big Odaiko drums from old wine barrels.

The group’s first public performance was at the Steveston Otera Obon on July 15, 2001. They played two short songs (which was all they knew)



Members of the Steveston Buddhist Temple Taiko group. (ca. 2005)

and were assisted by Shinobu and Naomi. Since that time, the *Taiko* group has continued to develop and is now quite independent. Despite some personnel changes, most of the original members are still to-

gether.

The *Taiko* group has now become more independent. They composed their first song, “*Minna No Sekai*,” in the Fall of 2003 and premiered it at *Chibi*



The Steveston Buddhist Temple Taiko group performing. (2008)

Taiko’s Tenth Anniversary concert. They officially changed their name to Steveston *Tera Taiko* in January 2004. The “*Tera*” is short for *otera* (temple).

They continue to grow as a young *taiko* group and performances over the last few years have included: Kamloops Canada Day Festival, Western Washington University Culture Shock, CTV News in Your Neighbourhood, Breakfast TV - Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival, Chan Centre Roots ‘N’ Shoots Festival, Richmond Olympic Oval Opening Celebrations, and collaborations with The Chen Ling Academy of Dance, *Chibi Taiko*, and Le Patin Libre.

TAKARAJIMA GROUP

The Japanese play group “*Takarajima*” was established in 2008 by several Japanese mothers who wanted to offer a play-based Japanese environment for children to learn the language and the culture, while at the same time providing networking opportunities for Japanese mothers. *Takarajima* is a drop-in program and is held every Thursday, with 2 hours in the morning for preschoolers and 2 hours in the afternoon for school-aged children.

The activities of this group include Japanese crafts such as *Origami*, circle time in Japanese, Japanese games and kids’ cooking classes. The group also has a mini-Japanese library for both children and mothers.

The average number of participants in the program was about 20 children per session in 2009. More than 100 families are on the *Takarajima* contact list, and during special events and holiday sessions, the group has seen as many as 60 participants.

SENIORS CLUB

In 1983, Reverend Gyosho Abe, then the resident minister, suggested to the *Bukkyokai* that a club for seniors be organized. *Bukkyokai* members agreed and elected Isao Tsumura as President, Nobuo Domai as Chairman, Masuo Hashimoto as Director and Kaoru Atagi as Treasurer of the newly-formed Seniors Club. Later, members recommended the *Fujinkai* be represented and the ladies selected Shizue Miyazaki, Yoshiko Sakai, Toshi Amadatsu, Shizuka Akune and Chiyoko Sakata as representatives to the Seniors Club.

The Seniors Club holds a meeting of Executives and Representatives once a month and a general meeting of all members once a year. The Club organizes workshops on *bonsai*, making *sushi*, baking, gift wrapping, etc. The Club also organizes day or overnight trips in the Spring and Autumn, social gathering once or twice a year and the entertainment at the Temple’s Annual party.

Nobuo Domai had taken charge of the Club for many years, but had to resign because of health problems in 1993, which led to a new group of executives being elected. Seniors Club members were generally first elected as representatives and then were elected as executives. In 1994, the Executives included Toshio Murao as President, Eiichi Harada as Vice-President, Hiroshi Nogami as Treasurer and Hayao Sakai as Director. However, Hiroshi Nogami and Hayao Sakai had to resign for health reasons and were replaced by Takemi Miyazaki as Treasurer and Tomiko Sakai as Director.

The membership fee for the Seniors Club was \$1 per year for 10 years. However, the fee was increased to \$5 after the 2004 General meeting. In the case of funerals for members, the Seniors Club does not offer *koden*, but instead sends a representative to the funeral and offers *shoko*. The Seniors Club holds day trips in the Spring and Autumn, but is finding it difficult to continue to organize the New Year’s entertainment party.

Membership of the Seniors Club has remained constant through the years and has ranged from 130 members in 1983 and 1993 to 110 members in 2008.

YOUTH TOURS TO JAPAN

The Buddhist Church of Canada has organized several youth tours to Japan in which members of the Steveston Buddhist Temple have participated along with other young Buddhists from across Canada. These tours included home-stays with Japanese families. Following are reports and highlights of some of these tours.

August 1987

by Debbie Uyeno

Tour leaders:
Reverend Yasuhiro Miyakawa and Mrs. Teruko Ikuta
Participants:
Andrew Ishikawa



Debbie Uyeno.

and Maya Ishikawa (Alberta), Wendy Akune and Cathy Nishikawa (Vancouver), Marilyn Mori and Pamela Yoshida (Toronto), Grant Miyai (Manitoba), Debbie Uyeno and Kevin Ikuta (Steveston).

Home-stay was in Kobe. We visited Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya and Nara. One highlight was a steak and lobster dinner at the Tokyo Prince Hotel, hosted by Mr. Robert Iwata of Iwata Travel. We saw some amazing temples, ate different kinds of food and spent time out in the country. That was definitely an adventure.

August 1989

by Aaron Akune

Tour leaders:
Reverend Kiribayashi and Mrs. Fujikawa

The group consisted of 20 children. We had a lot of fun – there were cockroaches in my room. Reverend Grant Ikuta and Reverend John Iwahara were young gents in training.

July 1997

by Kevin Ikuta

Tour leaders:
Reverend Kyojo Ikuta
Participants:
Jane Shiraishi,

Mari Chijjiwa, Christine Takahashi and Kiyomi Motomura (Toronto), Nathan Takeda (Kelowna), Logan Blake (Manitoba), Tyler Yasui and James Koizumi (Calgary), Kevin Ikuta (Steveston) -- went on tour to assist his uncle.

Home-stay was at the temple of Reverend Kuroda in Hyogo, Japan (Kobe). We visited Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Nara, Hiroshima and Hakone. The delegates from South America, mainland USA, Hawaii and Canada toured the various sites together on two buses, so it was a lot of fun.



Kevin Ikuta.

July 1999

by Ruth Iwata

Tour leader:
Reverend Hattori

The group consisted of three young people from B.C. and one from Ontario. We visited the Tsukiji fish market in Tokyo, climbed Mount Fuji and visited Tokai, Hiroshima and the surrounding areas of Kyoto. The trip showed us not only how big this world is, but also how small it really is. One thing that struck me in Japan was how tradition and heritage buildings can exist in a very modern world. It was breathtaking to see the different types of temples and structures, sometimes hidden away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and at peace with nature and their surroundings. It was very humbling to see the mother temple in Kyoto,



Ruth Iwata.

with its rich history and culture, and to understand where we come from as a religion and as a person. These tours make you realize that you are not alone and that there are people who know what it is like to be different. They help us to embrace and take pride in our Japanese ancestry and our Buddhist faith.

July 2000

by Alisa Sakamoto

Tour leaders: Bishop Fujikawa and Mrs. Fujikawa

The group visited Hongwanji in Kyoto, the Island of Oita, Takaaki Mountain (Monkey Mountain), Kanazawa, Kenrokuen and Tokyo.

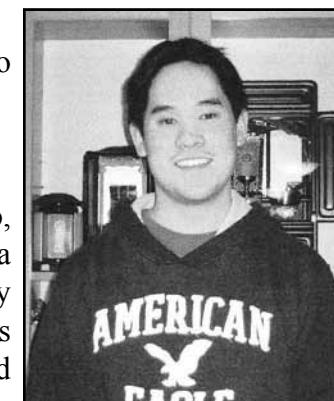
My favourite memories: meeting other young Buddhists from around the world, staying with my home-stay family (Oharas), visiting many temples in Kyoto, seeing the six-way crosswalk in Tokyo and the Tokyo Tower, attending the YBA conference, Reiko and I trying all the different kinds of drinks and ice-cream from the vending machines and travelling with Mrs. Fujikawa (she is so funny!). Also, I was really surprised to see beer and cigarettes sold in vending machines!

July 2001

by Glenn Sakamoto

Tour leader:
Reverend Hattori

We visited Tokyo, Kyoto, Gifu, Osaka and Hiroshima. My favourite memory is the home-stay. I stayed in Gifu and the people were very friendly and helpful. We went sightseeing with them and saw much of the Gifu country.



Glen Sakamoto.

July 2004

by Stacey Chan and Jillian Masuhara

Tour leader:
Reverend Masumi Kikuchi

Participants:

Stephanie Onabe and Adara (Saskatchewan), Gillian and Clayton (Toronto), Kane (Oshawa), Brian North (Vancouver), Jillian Masuhara and Stacey Chan (Steveston)

Home-stay in Nara. The family was extremely generous and kind. It was an excellent experience to see how a traditional Japanese family lives. I also enjoyed staying at the *Hongwanji* in Kyoto with the many festivities that were held there. I met many new people from various temples and the *Hongwanji* temple was beautiful. It was hot and we enjoyed eating “*kakigori*” (ice and anko). We also enjoyed eating “*kushiyaki (tempura)*” and ice-cream. It was fun to meet young people from different places. I remember having to get up very early at the *Hongwanji* to attend service. Reverend Kikuchi took us to many different interesting places.



Jillian Masuhara.

Chapter 5

OUTSTANDING MEMBERS of the STEVESTON BUDDHIST TEMPLE

The Steveston Buddhist Temple has been and continues to be fortunate to have many, many members who really care about and serve the temple in numerous ways. We have included the stories of a few of these individuals. We encourage readers to submit stories of other members to be added to this chapter in subsequent issues of this history.

MASUO HASHIMOTO



Masao Hashimoto.

Everyone affectionately called him *Machan* and his wife, *Neyan*. Masuo spent long hours making things for the *otera*. He had many carpentry tools set up in his home basement and the items he made for the *otera* were first class. Some of the things he made were the *yagura* (stage) used for *obon* dancing (all parts numbered for easy assembly), the *omikoshi* (for use in parades), the *gokuden* for the previous shrine, the black Event Board in the lobby (Machan’s computer system, which can’t be replaced or modernized), the wooden trays for the *Fujinkai*, Bingo card storage trays on casters, the black number board for Bingo and the Offertory box, to name a few. He tirelessly kept track of the names of executives, members and district representatives from 1952 and had his own computer-like system, which was amazing. He would print the lists on the Gestetner machine,

cranking the handle for a long, long time. Without his records, this history book would not be possible. *Arigato* “Machan”.

KOITO OKANO

Fujinkai was started on November 22, 1952 and Koito Okano was chosen as president at the Chatham Street temple. She lived directly across from the temple and consequently offered her home, her family and also her many neighbours and friends to help at events taking place at the temple.



Koito Okano.

The temple was not equipped with a kitchen or any other facility to serve the membership and support events at that time.

Mrs. Okano was entrusted with a key to the temple so it was very convenient for Sunday School teachers to run across the street, pick up the key and open the door to start Sunday School.

Between 1952 and 1966, she served as president nine times. Her dedication and “big heart” were helpful during the most trying formative years of our temple.

The foundation she laid for us has stood steadfast and today we can proudly say that the Steveston chapter is one of the most functional across Canada.

“Thank you very much, Koito-*ba*,” with deep appreciation from the membership.

KAZUKO ATAGI

Mrs. Atagi, together with her three young daughters, Eileen, Lois, and Christine, first appeared on the doorsteps of the Chatham Street *otera* around 1957-58. From that time on, she was a very dedicated member of our temple. Shortly after her arrival, Mrs. Atagi established herself as the pianist/organist for the *Dharma* School. Her musical talent was soon incorporated into many temple services – *Hanamatsuri*, *Obon* and *Ho on ko*, to name a few.



Throughout the late 1950s, 60's, 70's, 80's and part of the 90's, Mrs. Atagi became "part of the furniture", as the saying goes, at the Steveston Buddhist Temple. There were times when we unintentionally took her presence for granted, as we expected to see her sitting on the corner pew ready to play the organ to accompany all the *gathas* that were to be sung.

But music was only one part of Mrs. Atagi's temple life. She was the *Dharma* School treasurer for many years. She served as secretary and treasurer for the *Fujinkai* at various times. When called upon, she did her share of "kitchen duty" for the Bazaar, Food Fair, sandwich making or *chow mein* events. Like so many of our dedicated *Fujinkai* members, Mrs. Atagi volunteered her time with a spirit of generosity and compassion while working at Field's Department Store in Richmond.

After raising her three daughters, Mrs. Atagi continued her trek to the *Dharma* School, but was now seen driving Pearl Niwatsukino and the three Nagata girls (Kari, Lorene and Kim). She was also known to drive Brian Atagi, her nephew, to *Dharma* School. For anyone who needed a ride to the temple, Mrs. Atagi was there for them.

Mrs. Atagi served the temple for almost forty

years. Sadly for our community, she passed away the night before *Hanamatsuri* on April 3, 1994. As her daughter said, "she had her clothes laid out and was ready for *Hanamatsuri*". In true fashion, she was always ready to serve.

Thank you for your dedication and support, Mrs. Atagi.

We miss you and hold you dear forever in our hearts.

YOKICHI ISHIDA

Yokichi Ishida was born in Wakayama-ken in July 25, 1886 and came to Canada in 1904 to join his elder brother who was fishing on the Fraser River. He married Ren Oye while in Japan and had two daughters Tsurue (1908) and Eiko (1914). He became a naturalized Canadian citizen in 1908 and, in 1912, received his first fishing license. He fished for cod in Nanaimo and for salmon on the Fraser River.

His wife and younger daughter joined him in Canada in January 1928. They were relocated to Greenwood from 1942 to 1951. In Greenwood, he was a caretaker for the Roman Catholic Church and maintained the largest vegetable garden in town. He was up at dawn to water and talk to the plants.

In 1951, the family returned to Steveston where he volunteered his time as *naijin kakari*, caretaker of the inner temple shrine, and looked after the *butsudan* altar for many, many years. He could always be seen walking along Chatham Street and, later, Garry Street, rain or shine, on his way to the *otera*, which he considered his second home. Known as 'Totsan' by his many friends, he was loved by all of the members for his gentle manner. He helped with a smile on his face. Reverend Ikuta in Calgary remembers him as a *naijinsan* who loved to smoke up the *otera* with incense to make sure that Buddha heard the chants of the priest and the people.

He was 'Ojisan' to the children of friends and to his grandchildren who remember him lovingly tending his flower and vegetable garden and always picking the best flowers for the altar at the *otera*. He was a believer in reincarnation and used it as a form of discipline. When one of them tried to kill

an insect, he would stop them by saying "*You will come back as an ant or a bug if you're not a good person in this life.*"

For his many years of devoted volunteer service he was honoured with an *Ingo* from the Bishop.

He passed away on July 22, 1981 a few days before his 95th birthday.

SATSUE NAKA

Mrs. Satsue Naka was born in Steveston in 1914. Around 1940, she married Kei Naka of Kelowna. They had three sons and one daughter and, after the marriage failed, she returned to Steveston. She worked for about 15 years at the cannery until she retired and moved to the Army & Navy Seniors Home in 1979.

When Mrs. Naka joined the Steveston Buddhist Temple, she would walk to the temple two or three times a week, carrying a bundle of cushions that she took home in order to wash the covers. At the temple, she would sweep the floors, the outside steps and the entrance. She made many, many cushions from the remnant samples that Mrs. Hambly, of Hambly's Draperies, gave her.

She also swept the streets in Steveston, pulled weeds and picked up paper and garbage in the park. One year, she was honoured and recognized for her good deeds in the July 1st Salmon Festival parade.

At the age of 81, Mrs. Naka suffered a massive stroke and was found unconscious in the park. She died six days later.

INGO

Ingo was traditionally presented to individuals who have passed on and were being recognized for their outstanding contributions and services to their Temple and their promotion of the *Jodo Shin-shu* Buddhism in the community. Individuals were also recognized for their special monetary donation to the BCC.

The names are recommended by the Temple elders or the family to the Minister for review and then subsequently forwarded to the Bishop of BCC for a final review and to be given a Buddhist name. An *Ingo* or posthumous name often prefaces the *Homyo*.

The following individuals were recorded to have received *Ingo* in the Steveston Temple:

Wakabayashi, Shige	24-Aug-73
Toyoda, Yoshiharu	11-Aug-74
Morishita, Eikichi	26-Jun-76
Okano, Koito	18-Jul-78
Ishida, Yokichi	01-Jul-81
Ikuta, Mino	08-Aug-83
Takasaki, Kazuo	24-May-86
Nishii, Frank	20-Nov-94
Akune, Yuiichi	03-Jul-95
Atagi, Kay	22-Jul-98
Tsumura, Isao	16-Aug-98
Domai, Nobuo	29-Jan-00
Hamade, Hatsuyo	28-May-00
Amadatsu, Toshi	17-Dec-02
Hamade, Hiroshi	22-Dec-03
Kuriyama, Kikuyo	15-May-05
Hibi, Tadasu	09-Jun-06
Hashimoto, Masuo	30-Jun-07
Yamamoto, John	30-Mar-08
Koyanagi, George	12-Aug-09
Hamade, Itsuji	29-Jun-10
Hamade, Kiyoko	01-Sep-10
Mukai, Sadako	30-Jan-11

COMMENDATION

The following individuals have received commendations by the Steveston Buddhist Temple:

Okano, Koito	April, 1992
Naka, Satsue	April, 1992
Amadatsu, Toshi	April, 1992
Tsumura, Isao	April, 1994
Hamade, Itsuji	April, 1994
Domai, Nobuo	April, 1994
Kokubo, Hideo	May, 1995
Hamade, Hiroshi	May, 1995
Hamade, Kiyoko	June, 1996
Murao, Toshio	September, 1998
Akune, Shizuka	June, 1998
Domai, Hisae	June, 1998
Mukai, Sadako	June, 1998
Higo, Haruko	September, 2002

Chapter 6

FROM THE PAST TO THE FUTURE

In the previous chapters we have chronicled the rich history of the Steveston Buddhist Temple. Building on this legacy from our pioneers, we have a beautiful temple, committed *Sangha* and the *Dharma*. In this chapter, we are including the thoughts and dreams of our temple from our members including our younger members who are the future of the temple.

MEMORIES

by Alice Eriyo Kokubo (Sakiyama)

As I walked along the hallway of photographs in our temple during the 75th Anniversary festivities, many childhood memories flooded over me. I am seated in the front row in one photograph in “ochigo san” regalia at about 4 years of age. From that age I can see myself growing older in succeeding pictures.

The first memory that I can recall is of our church on First Avenue. I was one of many girls and boys attending Sunday School. On the right hand side of the Hondo sat the girls and, on the other side, sat all the boys. We all sat on long wooden benches. Occasionally, Mr. Hato would come and sing “Hato-Po-Po” and make us laugh.

At kindergarten age, I made my stage debut with two other girls singing “O-te te-o tsunaide”. Later, during my elementary school days, a few of us went to the temple after school to practice “odori” for the annual concert. I remember there were two ladies who prepared dinner for us (onigiri, wieners, and takuwan or sometimes sukiyaki). What a treat!

I was about 9 years old when a guest minister spoke to the children in English! We all sat mesmerized by his dharma talk. He was Reverend T. Tsuji from Maple Ridge.

Years later at our temple, I spoke to Reverend Tsuji about the occasion. He gave a very hearty

laugh and told me it was in 1939 and he had just returned from Japan after his studies. He also told me that from his home, he drove a very long way to New Westminster. Then he headed for Steveston, but all he could see was farm after farm and thought he must be going in the wrong direction. Eventually, he reached Steveston and found it to be a very nice place.

Time passed and in the early 1950s our temple was on Chatham Street, a most nostalgic building, as it was the place I went to Kindergarten. Our Sunday School had an attendance of 135 youngsters and the teenagers of the group all helped the Sunday School teachers. I’m sure that many of the helpers of those days remember sweeping the hall before the service when there was a Japanese movie held the evening before, or trying to start the big old wood burning furnace downstairs so we could have some heat upstairs. All we got was thick bellowing smoke until it was time to go home.

Now, more than 80 years after our forefathers first laid the foundation for us, we have a beautiful temple of which we can all be proud. We should give thanks for all their hard work and many personal sacrifices over those many years. Let us not take this for granted and also endeavour to leave some wonderful memories for our future generations.

STEVESTON BUDDHIST TEMPLE, AN APPRECIATION

by Elmer Morishita

My introduction to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism started in Toronto, being taken to the Toronto Buddhist Church by my parents. As youngsters we attended services, enjoyed the bazaars and as teens joined some of the Young Buddhist group activities. Attending the Church was a family and social event. I learned a bit, a little bit, about Buddhism and made some friends at the Church.

I drifted away from the Church as I went to university and then to work in Montreal. Other interests and activities occupied my time. When our family moved back to Vancouver, we were busy establishing ourselves and keeping busy with our friends and relatives and with our son's various activities.

A few years ago, I started to attend the Steveston Buddhist Temple and eventually became a member. I joined this Temple since this is where my parents attended Sunday School and services. As well, some of our family relatives and friends were also members. My uncle and aunt encouraged me to join and so I did. They and others were able to point out the picture of my mother and my aunt in a group photo from the 1930s hanging in the history hallway at the temple. As I talk with some of the senior members, some of whom know my parents, I am reminded of them and their lives.

At the Temple, I learned more about the Buddha, his teachings and Amida Buddha. I've come to appreciate the teachings of Shinran Shonin and feel I can indeed put my trust in Amida Buddha. I also feel that I am following the same path as my parents and relatives who have passed away and will hopefully join them. I continue to learn about Jodo Shinshu Buddhism by attending service, attending lectures and talking with our members. The SBT has had and has many excellent ministers teaching the Dharma and many interesting and thoughtful members. As well, we are lucky to have many excellent guest ministers sharing their knowledge and experience.

At the SBT, I try to participate and help whether on the Board or on committees or baking some cookies or by just holding the door open for members, just trying to be helpful. In the process, I have met many of our old family relatives and friends and many new ones. They are all very friendly and welcoming and dedicated to the Temple.

I was lucky to have helped with the 80th Anniversary celebration and with the History Book. These projects made me more aware and appreciative of the hard work and dedication of our ancestors. In particular, I am grateful to my parents

for their sacrifices and guidance which I may not have appreciated so much while I was growing up but which I do so now with many thanks.

The Temple's future is bright with the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha, our Three Treasures. With them we can all rejoice in the teachings within our beautiful temple with our fellow members and attain peace and enlightenment.

MEMORIES

by Jillian Masuhara

Hmm...well.... In the beginning it was good. We were all very young and we went there to see our friends and it was a happy place to be. They gave out manju occasionally and there was tea after services. I used to love hearing Mak's stories every Sunday when we went, and I remember not liking chanting all too much. Julia and I used to chant at an octave higher than everyone so we could sound more harmonious. I don't think it really worked. We also used to braid the little book markers and we made sure that we braided all of them before we left that day. We were pretty good at that.

I remember the food that the Fujinkai made being absolutely amazing and I would come to help out at food fairs and clean ups just so I could eat the food. I didn't really want to help, I just wanted to eat, and take some home for later...

Everyone was so friendly and they felt like a second family to me. We would all be there every Sunday, helping out at different functions, eating together at the barbeques in the summer. They all knew us (me, Kelly, Nikki) from when we were so little - they watched us grow up.

We were the ones that helped start Taiko in Steveston, with our Dharma classmates. We all learned together from Shinobu and Naomi and practiced on tires. We worked hard to get better but we were just a bunch of kids and our skills grew as we did. We were so nervous doing our first performance at the Temple Obon. We got better and always enjoyed playing at Temple functions. Hopefully, people recognized that and appreciated all of our hard work. We are glad to be a part of the history of the Temple.

GHOST IN OUR OTERA

A Story by Mak Ikuta

This story is from many, many years ago. There was an elderly man, Mr. Ishida (Sam Shinde's grandfather) who looked after the naijin for many years. He came to the temple every day. One day there was news that a member, Mr. Choichiro Morizawa, drowned up north during his fishing trip. Mr. Ishida said that he saw Mr. Morizawa in the hondo. I asked Mr. Ishida what did the figure look like.

"He appeared distinctly from the waist up, but faded below and I couldn't see his legs." This story spooked Mr. Masuo Hashimoto who was a long time recording secretary of the temple. One night he was running the Gestetner printing machine and the air vent in the ceiling of the corridor outside the office, creaked and banged. Mr. Hashimoto became so rattled he rushed out and didn't remember whether he turned out the lights.

Have you experienced such a phenomenon?

DHARMA SCHOOL, 2011. THOUGHTS FOR THE SBT HISTORY BOOK

Jaren Yamaoka (5)

I like Sensei's stories and I like doing crafts. Finn from my school came to Dharma School with me. We went bowling after that.

Erin Ikuta (7), Courtney Ikuta (8), Honoka Shoji (9), Eve Katayama (10)

We love going to Dharma School! We learn what the Dharma is all about. We have a service and Sensei tells us stories about the Buddha, some special people and special animals. The stories teach us to think, to love and to be thankful.

Rio Weil (10)

At Dharma School we study Buddhism. We also chant "Gassho to Amida" and recite the "Golden Chain". Sometimes we go on outings, like bowling.

APPENDICES

Every effort has been made to include all those individuals who have helped to make the Steveston Buddhist Temple what it is today. We apologize for any unintended omissions or errors in the following photographs and tables.

**Appendix I. Ministers Assigned to the Steveston Buddhist Temple
Pre-War Era, 1933 - 1942**



Rev. MASATSUGU MOHRI, 1933 - 1938



Rev. TOSHIO KATATSU, 1938 - 1942

Appendix I (continued).



Rev. HOSHIN OKADA, 1971 - 1982



Rev. GYOSHO ABE, 1982 - 1988

Post-Evacuation Era, 1952 - 1962



*Rev. SHINJO IKUTA, 1954 - 1958;
1963 - 1966*



Rev. KYOJO IKUTA, 1958 - 1962



Rev. SAMMI KIRIBAYASHI, 1988 - 1996



*Rev. YASUO IZUMI,
1998 - 2002*

Garry Street Era, 1963 - 2010



*Rev. TAKAAKI NAGATANI,
1966 - 1970*



*Rev. TAKAMICHI TAKAHATAKE,
1970 - 1971*



*Rev. NARIYUKI HATTORI
(ISHIYAMA), 1997 - 1998; 2003 - 2005*



*Rev. MASUMI KIKUCHI,
2005 - 2008*

**Appendix II. Steveston Buddhist Temple Presidents
Post-Evacuation Era, 1952 - 1962**



**EIKICHI
MORISHITA,**
1952 – 1954:
1957



**YUICHI
AKUNE,**
1955 – 1956:
1964 - 1965



**TOKICHI
NIWATSUKINO,**
1959



**YONEICHI
SAKAI,**
1960



**YOSHIHARU
SHINDE,**
1961 – 1962

Garry Street Era, 1963 - 2010



**NOBUO
DOMAI,**
1966 – 1967:
1969 - 1970



**KAORU
ATAGI,**
1968



**HIROSHI
HAMADE,**
1969: 1973



**YOSHINOBU
TOYODA,**
1971 – 1972



**ISAO
TSUMURA,**
1974 - 1978



**TOSHIO
MURAO,**
1981



**TAKEMI
MIYAZAKI,**
1982 – 1983:
1986 - 1987



**KAZUO
TAKASAKI,**
1984 - 1985



**ROY
AKUNE,**
1988 – 1994



**MITTS
SAKAI,**
1995 - 1996



**KUNIHICO
IKUTA, 1966 – 1967:
1969 - 1970**



**JACK
KAWABATA,**
2000 - 2004:
2009



**LARRY
RYAN,**
2005 – 2007



**KIYO
DOMAI,**
2008



**BUD
SAKAMOTO,**
2010 -

**Appendix III. BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STEVESTON
BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

The following Board of Directors managed the operations of the temple (taken from early records):

1927-1928:		1929-1939:	
President	Jiromatsu Ushirode	President	Kuranosuke Hashimoto
Treasurer	Fukumatsu Nakano	Treasurer	Kuranosuke Hashimoto
Auditor	Kuranosuke Hashimoto	Directors	Unosuke Shimono
Directors	Toramatsu Itoh		Tatsunosuke Shibata
	Inosuke Yamamoto		Seijiro Koba
	Kikumatsu Murakami		Kikumatsu Murakami
	Kiyomatsu Nakagawa		Yoshimatsu Niide
			Fukumatsu Sakiyama

Appendix IV. ARCHIVE LIST OF PAST EXECUTIVES OF THE STEVESTON BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Appendix IVa.								
	Year							
Position	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
President	E. Morishita	E. Morishita	E. Morishita	Y. Akune	Y. Akune	E. Morishita	Y. Akune	T. Niwatsukino
Vice-Pres.	T. Niwatsukino	T. Niwatsukino	T. Niwatsukino	A. Murakami	T. Niwatsukino	A. Murakami	T. Niwatsukino	Y. Akune
Chairman	H. Tanaka	H. Tanaka	H. Tanaka	M. Hori	H. Tanaka	H. Tanaka	H. Tanaka	H. Tanaka
Vice-Chair.	K. Atagi	Y. Akune	G. Kobayashi	T. Kawasaki	M. Hori	G. Kobayashi	G. Kobayashi	G. Kobayashi
Treasurer	A. Murakami	A. Murakami	I. Hamade	Y. Toyota	Y. Toyota	S. Asari	S. Asari	S. Asari
Vice-Treas.	K. Sakiyama	K. Sakiyama	Y. Toyota	-	H. Okano	M. Teraguchi	M. Teraguchi	H. Uyeda
Secretary	N. Domai	N. Domai	N. Domai	M. Hashimoto	N. Domai	I. Tsumura	I. Tsumura	I. Tsumura+
Vice-Secr.	K. Nishii	K. Nishii	K. Nishii	H. Yoneda	I. Hamade	H. Hamade	-	-
English Secr.	-	-	-	K. Nishii	K. Nishii	K. Nishii	K. Nishii	K. Nishii
Recording Secr.	-	I. Hamade	M. Hashimoto	Y. Maede	Y. Maede	Y. Maede	Y. Maede	-
Auditor	M. Tanigami	H. Okano	S. Uyeyama	H. Yoneda	K. Sakiyama	T. Miyazaki	T. Miyazaki	S. Uyeyama
Auditor	M. Higo	S. Uyeyama	H. Okano	Y. Maede	S. Uyeyama	H. Okano	K. Sakiyama	K. Sakiyama
Auditor	-	T. Maekawa	T. Maekawa	T. Hikida	E. Sakata	K. Sakiyama	S. Uyeyama	F. Koyama
Auditor	-	Y. Toyota	T. Miyazaki	T. Hibi	T. Maekawa	I. Hamade	T. Maekawa	H. Hamade
+ - Japanese Secretary								

Appendix IVb.								
	Year							
Position	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
President	Y. Sakai	Y. Shinde	Y. Shinde	Y. Akune	Y. Akune	Y. Shinde	N. Domai	N. Domai
Vice-Pres.	A. Murakami	K. Nishikihama	K. Nishikihama	N. Domai	Y. Shinde	Y. Sakai	I. Hamade	I. Hamade
Chairman	S. Suzuki	S. Suzuki	H. Tanaka	H. Tanaka	H. Tanaka	H. Tanaka	H. Hamade	H. Hamade
Vice-Chair.	M. Hori	S. Mizuyabu	Y. Takasaki	-	-	I. Hamade	Y. Toyota	Y. Toyota
Treasurer	S. Asari	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	K. Yukawa
Vice-Treas.	-	-	I. Hamade	K. Atagi	M. Hashimoto	K. Yukawa	R. Akune	R. Akune
Secretary	I. Tsumura+	Y. Takasaki+	Y. Takasaki+	I. Tsumura+	I. Tsumura+	I. Tsumura+	K.Nishikihama	I. Tsumura
English Secr.	K. Nishii	K. Atagi	T. Narukami	K. Nishii	R. Akune	K. Nishii	K. Yukawa	M. Ikuta
Recording Secr.	-	Y. Maede	-	-	-	-	M. Hashimoto	M. Hashimoto
Auditor	S. Mukai	Y. Oura	F. Koyama	F. Koyama	T. Miyazaki	T. Miyazaki	K. Matsuo	K. Matsuo
Auditor	T. Miyazaki	S. Nishihama	Y. Oura	S. Mukai	F. Koyama	F. Koyama	T. Inana	S. Mukai
Auditor	Y. Toyota	H. Yoneda	S. Uyeyama	H. Okano	Y. Oura	S. Mukai	H. Sakai	T. Inana
Auditor	S. Nishihama	E. Sakata	H. Yoneda	K. Sakiyama	S. Mukai	Y. Oura	M. Sakai	H. Sakai
+ - Japanese Secretary								

Appendix IVc.								
	Year							
Position	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
President	K. Atagi	Hamade/Domai	N. Domai	Y. Toyota	Y. Toyota	H. Hamade	I. Tsumura	I. Tsumura
Vice-Pres.	H. Hamade	-	Y. Toyota	M. Sakai	T. Miyazaki	N. Domai	K. Atagi	K. Atagi
Chairman	Y. Shinde	I. Hamade	I. Hamade	K. Nishii	K. Nishii	H. Sakai	H. Sakai	K. Takasaki
Vice-Chair.	N. Domai	Y. Toyota	H. Tanaka	H. Tanaka	H. Tanaka	K. Nishii	K. Takasaki	H. Sakai
Treasurer	K. Yukawa	K. Atagi	K. Atagi	K. Atagi	M. Kokubo	M. Kokubo	M. Kokubo	M. Kokubo
Vice-Treas.	-	-	K. Takasaki	M. Kokubo	I. Hamade	K. Atagi	M. Sakai	M. Sakai
Secretary	I. Tsumura	I. Tsumura	I. Tsumura	I. Tsumura	M. Hashimoto	M. Hashimoto	M. Hashimoto	M. Hashimoto
English Secr.	M. Ikuta	K. Nishii	K. Nishii	R. Akune	G. Koyanagi	Y. Kobayashi	Y. Kobayashi	Y. Kobayashi
Recording Secr.	M. Hashimoto	K. Takasaki	K. Takasaki	M. Hashimoto	M. Hashimoto	M. Hashimoto	M. Hashimoto	M. Hashimoto
Auditor	T. Inana	T. Inana	T. Inana	S. Mukai	T. Inana	I. Tsumura	T. Hibi	T. Hibi
Auditor	K. Matsuo	S. Mukai	K. Matsuo	T. Hibi	T. Hibi	T. Hibi	K. Matsuo	K. Matsuo
Auditor	S. Mukai	K. Matsuo	T. Miyazaki	J. Yamamoto	K. Matsuo	K. Matsuo	T. Inana	T. Inana
Auditor	T. Miyazaki	H. Tanaka	S. Mukai	H. Sakai	H. Sakai	T. Inana	I. Hamade	T. Tanaka

Appendix IVd								
	Year							
Position	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
President	I. Tsumura	I. Tsumura	I. Tsumura	-	-	T. Murao	T. Miyazaki	T. Miyazaki
Vice-Pres.	K. Atagi	H. Tanaka	H. Tanaka	-	-	K. Atagi	T. Murao	T. Murao
Chairman	K. Takasaki	K. Takasaki	H. Sakai	H. Sakai	K. Takasaki	K. Takasaki	K. Ikuta	K. Ikuta
Vice-Chair.	H. Sakai	H. Okano	K. Takasaki	H. Okano	H. Okano	H. Okano	H. Okano	H. Okano
Treasurer	M. Kokubo	M. Kokubo	M. Kokubo	M. Kokubo	C. Narukami*	C. Narukami*	M. H. Sakai*	M. H. Sakai*
Vice-Treas.	M. Sakai	K. Atagi	K. Atagi	K. Atagi	K. Atagi	K. Atagi	K. Atagi	K. Ikuta*
Secretary	M. Hashimoto	M. Hashimoto	M. Hashimoto	M. Hashimoto	M. Hashimoto	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	K. Ikuta*
English Secr.	Y. Kobayashi	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	-	-	-
Recording Secr.	M. Hashimoto	-	-	-	-	R. Akune	R. Akune	R. Akune
Auditor	T. Hibi	T. Inana	T. Inana	T. Inana	T. Hibi	T. Hibi	T. Sakai	E. Harada
Auditor	T. Inana	T. Hibi	T. Hibi	T. Hibi	T. Inana	T. Tanaka	K. Tasaka	K. Nishii
Auditor	K. Matsuo	K. Matsuo	T. Tanaka	T. Tanaka	I. Yamamoto	I. Yamamoto	K. Atagi	H.Sakai
Auditor	T. Tanaka	T. Tanaka	T. Miyazaki	I. Yamamoto	T. Tanaka	I. Tsumura	E. Harada	K. Tasaka
* - Mrs.								

Appendix IVe								
	Year							
Position	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
President	K. Takasaki	K. Takasaki	T. Miyazaki	T. Miyazaki	R. Akune	R. Akune	R. Akune	R. Akune
Vice-Pres.	H. Sakai	K. Nishii	H. Sakai	H. Sakai	H. Sakai	H. Sakai	H. Sakai	H. Sakai
Chairman	K. Ikuta	K. Ikuta	K. Ikuta	K. Ikuta	K. Ikuta	K. Ikuta	-	-
Vice-Chair.	H. Okano	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Treasurer	J. Ikuta*	J. Ikuta*	J. Ikuta*	J. Ikuta*	J. Ikuta*	J. Ikuta*	K. Ikuta	K. Ikuta
Secretary	J. Ikuta*	J. Ikuta*	J. Ikuta*	J. Ikuta*	J. Ikuta*	J. Ikuta*	J. Ikuta*	J. Ikuta*
Recording Secr.	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta
Auditor	Y. Maede	E. Harada	E. Harada	E. Harada	E. Harada	E. Harada	E. Harada	E. Harada
Auditor	K. Atagi	T. Sakai	T. Sakai	T. Sakai	K. Atagi	Y. Maede	Y. Maede	H. Okano
Auditor	E. Harada	H. Sakai	Y. Maede	Y. Maede	T. Sameshima	T. Sameshima	T. Sameshima	T. Sameshima
Auditor	T. Yamashita	I. Nishi	T. Sameshima	T. Sameshima	T. Murao	T. Murao	T. Murao	T. Murao
* - Mrs.								

Appendix IVg.							
	Year						
Position	2008	2009	2010	2011			
President	K. Domai	J. Kawabata	B. Sakamoto	B. Sakamoto	-	-	-
Vice-Pres.	L. Ryan	R. Akune/F. Ang	L. Ryan/J. Kawabata	L. Ryan/J. Kawabata	-	-	-
Chairman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Treasurer	B. Sakamoto	K. Suzuki	K. Suzuki	K. Suzuki	-	-	-
Secretary	I. Akune	H. Yoshihara	H. Yoshihara	H. Yoshihara	-	-	-
Vice-Secr.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recording Secr.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Auditor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Auditor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Auditor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Auditor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Appendix IVf.								
	Year							
Position	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
President	R. Akune	R. Akune	R. Akune	Mitts Sakai	Mitts Sakai	K. Ikuta	K. Ikuta	K. Ikuta
Vice-Pres.	H. Sakai	H. Sakai	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	R. Akune	R. Akune	Mitts Sakai
Treasurer	K. Ikuta	K. Ikuta	J. Yamamoto	J. Yamamoto	J. Yamamoto	J. Yamamoto	J. Yamamoto	J. Yamamoto
Secretary	J. Ikuta*	J. Ikuta*	J. Ikuta*	J. Ikuta*	J. Ikuta*	J. Ikuta*	J. Ikuta*	J. Ikuta*
Recording Secr.	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	R. Hamaura	R. Hamaura	M. Ogawa	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	J. Kawabata
Auditor	E. Harada	E. Harada	E. Harada	E. Harada	E. Harada	E. Harada	E. Harada	S. Morishita
Auditor	J. Yamamoto	H. Okano	S. Morishita	I. Tsumura	T. Sameshima	T. Sameshima	S. Morishita	T. Miyazaki
Auditor	T. Sameshima	T. Sameshima	T. Sameshima	T. Sameshima	T. Murao	T. Murao	T. Miyazaki	T. Murao
Auditor	S. Morishita	T. Murao	T. Murao	H. Sakai	H. Sakai	H. Sakai	D. Narukami	H. Okano
* - Mrs.								

Appendix IVg.								
	Year							
Position	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
President	K. Ikuta	J. Kawabata	J. Kawabata	J. Kawabata	J. Kawabata	L. Ryan	L. Ryan	L. Ryan
Vice-Pres.	L. Ryan	D. Narukami	L. Ryan	K. Domai	L. Ryan	K. Domai	K. Domai	K. Domai
Chairman	-	-	K. Ikuta	K. Ikuta	K. Domai	K. Ikuta	K. Ikuta	K. Ikuta
Treasurer	M. Sakai	M. Sakai	M. Sakai	M. Sakai	B. Sakamoto	B. Sakamoto	B. Sakamoto	B. Sakamoto
Secretary	I. Akune	-	J. Ang	I. Akune	I. Akune	I. Akune	I. Akune	I. Akune
Vice-Secr.	-	-	I. Akune	H. Yoshihara	-	-	-	-
Recording Secr.	-	J. Ang	-	-	-	-	-	-
Auditor	-	H. Hamade	-	-	K. Ikuta	J. Kawabata	J. Kawabata	J. Kawabata
Auditor	-	S. Morishita	-	-	T. Miyazaki	R. Akune	R. Akune	R. Akune
Auditor	-	T. Miyazaki	-	-	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta	M. Ikuta
Auditor	-	T. Murao	-	-	J. Hazama	J. Hazama	D. Masuhara	J. Ikuta

Appendix V. ARCHIVE LIST OF PAST FUJINKAI EXECUTIVES
OF THE STEVESTON BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Appendix Va. I.								
	Year							
Position	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
President	K. Okano	K. Okano	S. Mukai	S. Mukai	S. Mukai	K. Okano	K. Okano	H. Sakata
Vice-Pres.	S. Akune	S. Akune	T. Tanigami	S. Akune	S. Akune	S. Akune	S. Akune	C. Koyama
Treasurer	H. Domai	H. Domai	S. Tanaka	K. Hamade	K. Hamade	K. Hamade	K. Hamade	S. Nishi
Vice-Treas.	Y. Uyeyama	Y. Uyeyama	K. Osaka	S. Tanaka	Y. Uyeyama	S. Tanaka	S. Tanaka	C. Sakata
Secretary	Mrs. Maekawa	Mrs. Maekawa	C. Koyama	H. Domai	H. Domai	-	H. Domai	K. Kuriyama
Vice-Secr.	S. Nishi	S. Nishi	T. Ogawa	-	S. Hashimoto	-	S. Hashimoto	Y. Nishihama

Appendix Vb.								
	Year							
Position	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
President	K. Okano	K. Okano	S. Mukai	S. Mukai	K. Okano	K. Okano	K. Okano	S. Mukai
Vice-Pres.	K. Hamade	K. Hamade	H. Domai	K. Hamade	K. Hamade	S. Akune	-	K. Hamade
Treasurer	C. Sakata	S. Akune	S. Akune	S. Nishi	T. Amadatsu	C. Koyama	-	T. Amadatsu
Vice-Treas.	S. Nishi	S. Hashimoto	S. Hashimoto	S. Tanaka	S. Tanaka	H. Hamade	-	-
Secretary	K. Nishihama	H. Domai	K. Nishihama	T. Amadatsu	-	H. Domai	-	S. Akune
Vice-Secr.	S. Tanaka	T. Kariya	C. Koyama	C. Koyama	-	C. Sakata	-	-

Appendix Vc.								
	Year							
Position	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Director	H. Domai	H. Domai	T. Amadatsu	S. Akune	S. Akune	T. Amadatsu	T. Amadatsu	M. Kobayashi
Director	S. Akune	S. Akune	K. Hamade	F. Takeuchi	K. Kuriyama	F. Takeuchi	K. Hamade	K. Hamade
Director	F. Takeuchi	F. Takeuchi	T. Mukai	S. Nishi	C. Sakata	H. Hamade	F. Takeuchi	T. Sakai
Director	C. Sakata	C. Sakata	S. Nishi	K. Kuriyama	T. Ogawa	C. Sakata	M. Yoshida	T. Ogawa

Appendix Vd.								
	Year							
Position	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Director	H. Hamade	C. Sakata	T. Amadatsu	K. Hamade	T. Sakai	H. Hamade	H. Higo	K. Hamade
Director	C. Sakata	S. Akune	K. Hamade	M. Kobayashi	H. Hamade	C. Sakata	S. Hashimoto	T. Sakai
Director	T. Ogawa	T. Amadatsu	M. Kobayashi	T. Sakai	M. Sameshima	H. Higo	K. Hamade	M. Sameshima
Director	T. Sakai	H. Hamade	H. Higo	M. Sameshima	K. Kuriyama	T. Amadatsu	S. Miyazaki	S. Hashimoto

Appendix Ve.								
	Year							
Position	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Director	T. Sakai	T. Amadatsu	H. Higo	T. Sakai	K. Hamade	H. Hamade	H. Higo	T. Sakai
Director	H. Hamade	C. Sakata	S. Miyazaki	K. Hamade	T. Sakai	H. Higo	A. Kokubo	H. Hamade
Director	M. Sameshima	H. Hamade	I. Akune	-	H. Hamade	K. Hamade	-	H. Higo
Director	-	H. Higo	-	-	-	-	-	M. Sameshima

Appendix Vf.								
	Year							
Position	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Treasurer	I. Akune	C. Narukami	I. Akune	H. Yoshihara	H. Yoshihara	J. Ikuta	K. Niwatsukino	H. Yoshihara
Vice-Treas.	-	-	-	-	-	H. Yoshihara	-	-
Secretary	K. Kuriyama	J. Ikuta	-	H. Yoshihara	M. Hamaura	I. Akune	J. Ikuta	M. Hamaura
Vice-Secr.	M. Hamaura	-	-	K. Kuriyama	M. Sameshima	-	-	-
Director	T. Sakai	H. Higo	H. Higo	M. Sameshima	T. Sakai	A. Kokubo	U. Sakamoto	K. Murao
Director	H. Higo	H. Hamade	H. Hamade	T. Sakai	K. Kuriyama	H. Oye	M. Nakano	H. Higo
Director	M. Sameshima	S. Miyazaki	-	-	-	H. Higo	M. H. Sakai	K. Kuriyama
Director	H. Hamade	-	-	-	-	T. Tasaka	M. Kobayashi	T. Sakai

Appendix Vg.								
	Year							
Position	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Treasurer	H. Yoshihara	H. Yoshihara	H. Yoshihara	H. Yoshihara	J. Ikuta	H. Yoshihara	H. Yoshihara	H. Yoshihara
Vice-Treas.	J. Ikuta	J. Ikuta	J. Ikuta	J. Ikuta	H. Yoshihara	J. Ikuta	J. Ikuta	J. Ikuta
Secretary	I. Akune	I. Akune	I. Akune	I. Akune	I. Akune	I. Akune	I. Akune	I. Akune
Vice-Secr.	M. Hamaura	M. Hamaura	M. Hamaura	M. Hamaura	M. Hamaura	M. Hamaura	M. Hamaura	M. Hamaura
Director	A. Kokubo	K. Murao	T. Sakai	T. Sakai	K. Murao	S. Morizawa	M. Morishita	M. Toyoda
Director	H. Higo	A. Kokubo	H. Higo	K. Murao	S. Morizawa	C. Narukami	M. H. Sakai	M. Kobayashi
Director	H. Oye	H. Higo	S. Morizawa	S. Morizawa	T. Sakai	T. Sakai	S. Morizawa	K. Nishi
Director	T. Tasaka	T. Sakai	M. Morishita	-	-	M. Morishita	-	J. Koyanagi

Appendix Vh.			
	Year		
Position	2008	2009	2010
Treasurer	H. Yoshihara	H. Yoshihara	H. Yoshihara
Vice-Treas.	J. Ikuta	J. Ikuta	J. Ikuta
Secretary	I. Akune	I. Akune	I. Akune
Vice-Secr.	M. Hamaura	M. Hamaura	M. Hamaura
Director	K. Nishi	C. Nakatsu	M. H. Sakai
Director	K. Yamashita	M. Toyoda	I. Akune
Director	M. Morishita	M. Tani	C. Nakatsu
Director	C. Tasaka	K. Yamashita	-

Appendix VI. DHARMA SCHOOL ADVISORS SINCE 1952

(Dharma Schools were officially re-opened in temples across Canada in 1952)

Yuichi Akune
Nobuo Domai
George Osaka
Tokutaro Teramura

Appendix VII. STEVESTON BUDDHIST TEMPLE DHARMA SCHOOL TEACHERS AND ASSISTANTS (1952 to 2010)

Akizuki, Charlene	Kobayashi, Nancy		
Akune, Roy, Daisy, Bob, Misaye	Kokubo, Etsuko		
Atagi, Kazuko	Miyazaki, Bill	Nishi, Itoko	Taguchi, Yoshio
Domai, Kiyō, Toshiko, Betty	Miyazaki, Patti	Nishihama, Hisako	Takasaki, Mayumi
Domai, Reiko	Miyazaki, Suzie	Ogawa, Tomoye, Miffy	Takasaki, Toshiko
Hamaura, Caroline	Morishita, Betty, Henry	Okada, Tokiko(minister’s wife)	Takasaki, Akiko
Hibi, Mika, Kayo	Morishita, Gay	Okano, Tokiko	Tanaka, Hitomi
Hirose, Tammy	Morishita, Michiyo	Osaka,Hiroko	Teramura, Kay
Ikuta, Makoto, Kuni, June	Mukai, Grace, Roy	Oura, Chiyoko, Sadayo	Teranishi, Peggy
Inouye, Ray	Murao, Louise, Joyce	Sakai, Sally	Toyoda, Ken
Iwata, Genevieve	Nakano, Daisy	Sakamoto, Jean	Turner, Shannon
Iwase, Mayumi	Nakano, Donna	Sakamoto, Alisa	Yamamoto, Elaine
Kjar, Mildred	Nishi, Audrey	Sakata, Yoneko, Marjory	Yamashita, Karen
		Sakiyama, Alice, Peggy, Noriko	Yoshida, Etsuko
		Tabata, June	Yoshihara, Hiroko

Appendix VIII. STEVESTON BUDDHIST TEMPLE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS (1952 to 2011)

Akizuki, Aya	Katayama, Shanti, Eve, Fiona	Nishi, Audrey, Julie, Susan, Eric	Shoji, Honoka, Kippeï
Akune, Ted, Robert, Daisy, Misaye, Norma	Kawabata, Jack, Yosh, Victor, Michael	Nishi, Corinne	Shiyoji, Lorraine, Dennis, Kenneth, Terry, Sharon, Gail
Akune, Brian, Sharon, Steven	Kawasaki, Roy, Julie	Nishi, Grant, Brian, Lori	Suga, Tai, Riku
Akune, Aaron	Kimura, Jane, Rosa, Evelyn	Nishi, Itoko	Sugimoto, Alana
Araki, Robert, Kyle	Kimura, Nina	Nishi, Kenny, Gail, Diane, David	Suzuki, Diane, Richard, Beverly, Shirley
Arima, Lena	Kimura, Susan, Kumi, Kevin	Nishida, Tatsumasa, Tatsunori	Tabata, Ian, Julie
Atagi, Brian	Kiribayashi, Kazuki, Mari, Eri, Noriko	Nishihama, Hisako, Noriko, Sharon, Frances	Tabata, Bonnie, Claire
Atagi, Eileen, Lois, Christine		Nishii, Susie, June, Sharon, Kenny	Tabata, June
Aulad-Maclet, Celine	Kishi, Christina	Nishii, Larry, Diane	Tabata, Donald, Glen
Bessler, Robert, Justin	Kitade, Jennifer, Vickie, Yvonne	Nishikihama, Steven, Erika	Takasaki, Akiko
Booth, Brooke, Laura	Kjar, Kjeld (Kel), Bradley, Ricky	Nishikihama, Joy, Linda, Kenny, Karen, Michael, Philip, Kevin	Takasaki, Mayumi
Campbell, Brendan, Ryan	Klarreich, Joey	Nitta, Karen, Susie, Charlene, Janet	Takeuchi, Steven, Mika
Chan, Stacey	Kobayashi, Andrew	Niwatsukino, Clifford, Janice, Yumi	Tamaki, Isao, Yoshito, Akira
Cheung, Kaito, Akito, Ellie	Kobayashi, Ashley, Austin		Tanaka, Darlene
Chung, Gary, Kitty	Kobayashi, Fred, Mary, Stanley		Tanaka, Yoshimi, Hitomi, Eddy
DeSouza, Katelyn	Kokubo, Tsuneko, Etsuko		Tanigami, Amy
Domae, Donna	Kokubo, Joanne, Christine, Amy, Michael	Niwatsukino, Pearl	Tasaka, Ricky, Randy, Susan, Jennifer
Domai, Kiyō, Toshiko, Hiroko, Koji	Komori, Sachi	Noguchi, Erika, Kent, Louis	Tasaka, Chad
Domai, Reiko	Koyama, May, Roy	Nomura, Nancy	Terai, Aleisha
Even, Coral	Koyanagi, Thomas, Ruby, Bruce	Ogawa, Miffy, Thomas, Tomoye	Teramura, Kay, Yosh, Kenny
Gow, Julia	Kubo, Iris	Ohashi, Kaoru, Ryo, Kay, Ben	Teranishi, Betty, Peggy, Dick, Bobby, Joyce, Linda
Hamada, Lori	Kurahashi, Naomi	Okada, Nori, Yuka, Mona	
Hamade, Elsie	Kuramoto, Sumire	Oldham, Justin	Touzin, Jordan
Hamade, Lorne, Arthur, Dennis	Kuriyama, Richard, Kathy, Paul	Osaka, Hiroko, Irene	Toyoda, Ken
Hamade, Spencer, Bryce	Lewis, Annie	Oshiro, Terry, Audrey, Cindy	Toyoda, Linda, Ruby, Tracy
Hamade, Alicia, Emi	Maede, Diane, Judy	Oura, Sadayo, Chiyoko, Seichi, Kazuyo	Tsuyuki, Mika, Blake
Hamaguchi, Leslie, Wayne, Ken, Glen, Lori	Masuhara, Jillian, Kelly, Nicole	Peach-Phillips, Zachary, Reiko	Turner, Anne, Sam, Amy
Hamanishi, Bradley, Daryl	Matsumura, Myrna, Janet	Ryan, Lee	Uyeda, Doreen, Elsie, Jeffrey
Hamaura, Bob	Matsumura, Linda, Laverne	Sakai, Lillian	Uyeno, Issei, Maia, Alexa
Hamaura, Kim, Dean	Matsuyama, David, Jimmy	Sakai, Keiko, Alan	Uyeno, Debbie-Lynn
Hamaura, Karen, Christine, Wendy	Miyai, Grant	Sakai, Linda, Richard, Rodney	Ward, Leah
Hamaura, Richard, Cindy	Miyazaki, Bill	Sakai, Sally, Elaine, Kay	Watanabe, Robert, Andy
Hamaura, Larry, Roy, Caroline, Martin	Miyazaki, Debbie, Patti, Gary, Derek	Sakai, Mark, Steve, Sharon, Lynn	Weil, Rio, Kento
Hibi, Mika, Kayo, Yumi, Carey	Mizuyabu, Mary, Sanae, Dale	Sakamoto, Jean, Crystal, Sherry, David	Whittier, Taro, Shoji, Yamada, Nicholas
Higo, Naomi, Setsuko, Keiko	Morimoto, Massey, Bobby, John, Anthony, Naomi, Famie	Sakamoto, Alan, Elaine, Cindy	Yamamoto, Ray, Elaine, Grace
Higo, Wesley, Valerie, Susan, Hugh	Morishita, Joy, Gay, Brian, Herb	Sakamoto, Alisa, Glenn	Yamamoto, Judy, Caroline
Hikida, Darlene, Gary, Craig, Tami	Morizawa, Hiromi, Leo, George, Paul	Sakamoto, Jay, Terry	Yamamoto, Ryan, Lori, Todd, Norine
Hinada, Cassandra, Alexandra		Sakata, Koko, Kotaro	
Hirose, Gary, Jack, Tim, Tammy, Lisa	Morizawa, Caryn	Sakata, Yoshiaki, Yoneko, Marjory, Hozumi	Yamamoto, Marlene, Cathy, Sherrie
Hirose, Setsuko	Mukai, Bob, Tom		Yamamoto, Nao, Taku
Hori, Glenn	Mukai, Grace, Keith	Sakiyama, Nobby, Noriko, Butch, Ally, Joy	Yamanaka, Midori
Hori, Hiromi, Ronnie, Kenneth	Murakami, Barbara	Sameshima, Leonard, Wayne, Janice	Yamaoka, Jaren, Tanner
Ikari, Linda, Brian, Alan	Murao, Leanne		Yamashita, Karen, Douglas, Alan, Shirley
Ikuta, Denise, Kevin	Murao, Mary	Sameshima, Danny, Vickie, Ronnie, Brian	Yesaki, Michelle
Ikuta, Arthur, Dylan, Courtney, Erin	Murao, Kay, Ray, Louise, Kenny, Joyce, Dick		Yodogawa, Patsy
Inouye, Tod, Jay, Lisa	Nagata, Kari, Lorene, Kim	Sameshima, Lorraine, JoAnn, Teresa	Yokota, Haruko, Teruo
Iwase, Takeo, Tetsuo	Nakano, Daisy		Yoneda, Sharon
Iwata, Ruth	Nakano, Donna, Leonard, Sheila	Sameshima, Raymond, Elaine	Yoshida, Etsuko, Yasuo, Hiroko
Izumi, Ernie	Nakano, Kathleen	Sameshima, Miles	Yoshida, David, Ben, Judy
Jensen, Hiroshi	Nakatsuru, Dennis, Gary, Kelly, Sherry	Shigeno, Maya, Rika	Yoshihara, Duane, Karen
Kariya, Florence, Victor, Eleanor, Alan	Narukami, Dennis	Shinde, Ann, Donald, Douglas, Nancy	
Kariya, Masaru, Koji, Yoriko, Tosh	Nishi, Arlene, Robert		

“Please excuse any unintended errors or omissions of names”

PHOTOGRAPHS:

These pages include photographs of our members, our events and our temples. Some still requires documentation as to the exact time, place and occasion. We've included a large number of photographs so readers will be able to find themselves, family members and friends in some of them. We hope the readers of this history will be able to help us with this documentation and make our records more complete.

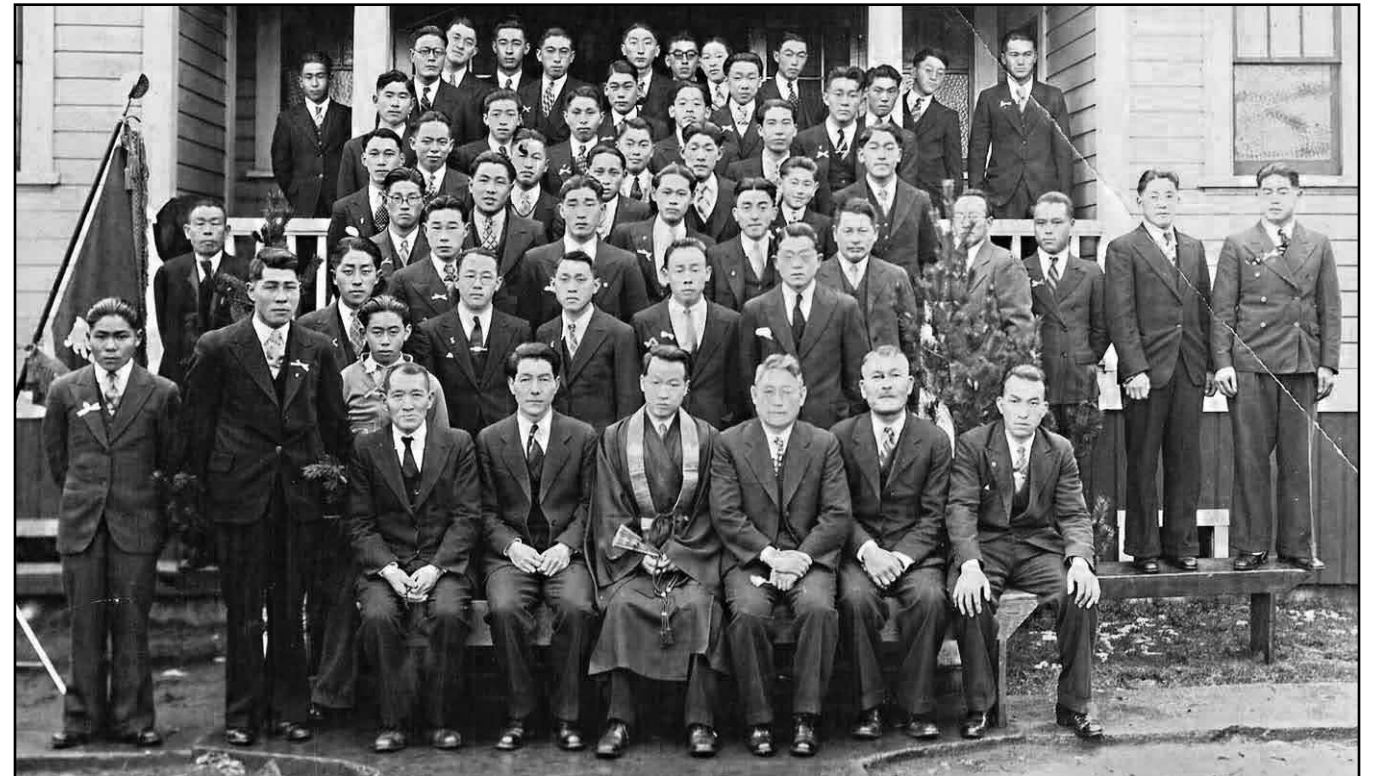
a. Steveston Buddhist Temple on First Avenue.



An early photograph of the Steveston Buddhist Temple on First Avenue. (ca. 1930)



Congregation gathered to celebrate Hamamatsuri on the steps of the Steveston Buddhist Temple after it was raised. (1940)



Young Men's Association on the steps of the Steveston Buddhist Temple. (1937)



Members of the Shojokai (Young Ladies Association) on the steps of the Steveston Buddhist Temple. (ca. 1935)



Steveston Buddhist Temple Sunday School class. (ca. 1935)



Steveston Buddhist Temple Sunday School teachers. (ca. 1935)



Sunday School students on the steps of the Steveston Buddhist Temple. (ca. 1935)



Shojokai members of the Steveston Buddhist Temple. (ca. 1935)



Members of the Steveston Buddhist Temple Seinkai basketball team. Reverends Katatsu and Mohri seated in front row. (1938)



Badminton Club members with 1937-1938 Championship Cup taken inside the Steveston Buddhist Temple. (1938)



Steveston Buddhist Temple Sunday School picnic. (1934)

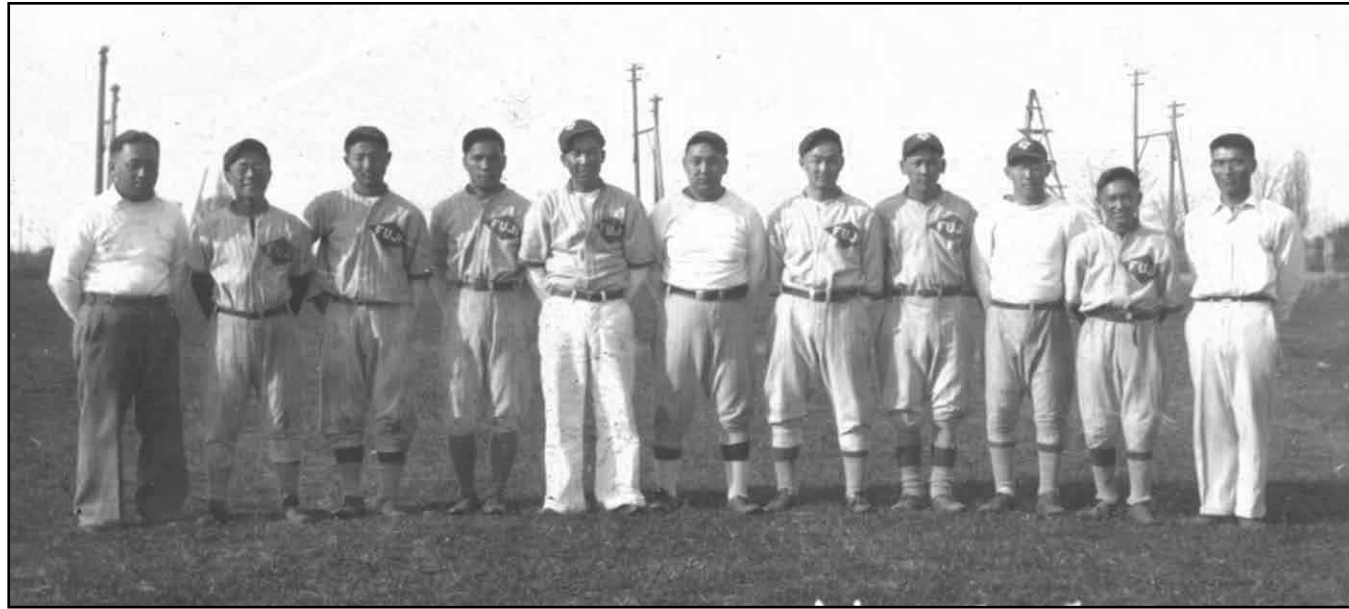


Meeting of the Steveston and Vancouver Buddhist in front of the Vancouver Hompa. (1934)



Young members of the Steveston Buddhist Temple enjoying picnic at Stanley Park. (1941)





Steveston Fuji baseball team. (1933)



Reverend Mohri's son dressed in ceremonial clothes. (ca. 1935)

Kimiyo Atode (Murao)



Photograph taken to commemorate the first official service conducted by Reverend Mohri at the Steveston Buddhist Temple. (1933)



Photograph taken commemorating the Steveston Buddhist Temple Sunday School Hanamatsuri Celebrations. (1935)



Photograph taken to commemorate the installation of the shrine in the Steveston Buddhist Temple. (1936)

b. Steveston Buddhist Temple on Chatham Street.



Sunday School students dressed for the dedication service of the Chatham Street Temple. (ca. 1955)



Participants of a Steveston Buddhist Temple shibai. From the left: I. Hamade, G. Osaka, K. Sakiyama, H. Hamade, Mr. Okano, S. Uyeyama, N. Domai, T. Miyazaki, M. Hashimoto and A. Tanaka. (ca. 1955)



Sunday School teachers on the steps of the Chatham Street Temple. (1956)



Sunday School teachers on the steps of the Chatham Street Temple. (1955-56)



Sunday School teachers in the Chatham Street Temple. (1957-58)



Sunday School students and teachers on the steps of the Chatham Street Temple. (1956)



Sunday School students and teacher on the steps of the Chatham Street Temple. (ca. 1960)

Sunday School students and teacher on the steps of the Chatham Street Temple. (ca. 1960)



*Sunday School students and teachers
on the steps of the Chatham Street
Temple. (ca. 1960)*



Sunday School Teacher's Convention in Vancouver. (1955)



Steveston Buddhist Temple Fujinkai members. Front row: from the left; Satsue Akune, Sakie Tanaka, Shisue Hashimoto, Hisae Domai, Sadako Mukai, Mume Sakiyama, Shizuka Akune, Fusako Toyoda and Some Asari. Middle row: Fujie Sameshima, Shizue Miyazaki, Sadame Hamaura, Toyoko Maede, Tsuta Nishi, Yoshie Yamanaka Sumie Yoshida, Chieko Koyama, Chiyoko Hamada and Mitsu Yoshida. Back row: Tsuru Hirota, Yurie Teraguchi, Masako Uyeda, Yaeko Yamamoto, Yoshie Uyeyama, Kikue Osaka, Tsurue Tamaki and Hatsue Hamade.



Tenth Anniversary of the Steveston Buddhist Temple Fujinkai. (1962)

Fourth Annual B.C. Young Buddhist Association and BSSTL convention held in Steveston. (1958)



Steveston Buddhist Temple square dance members performing on stage. (ca. 1960)



Steveston Buddhist Temple square dancing members in dress rehearsal. (ca. 1960)



Performers on stage during a shibai at the Steva Theatre. (1955)



Actors in full dress for a shibai performance. (ca. 1955)



Performers dressed to perform a shibai at the Steva Theatre. (1956)



Dancers in kimonos preparing for Obon celebrations. (1960)



Steva Theatre. (1952)

c. Steveston Buddhist Temple on Garry Street.



Garry Street Temple under various stages of construction. (1963)



Mortgage burning ceremony held in the Steveston Buddhist Temple gymnasium. 1965



Photographs of various Steveston Buddhist Temple festivities . (1965)



Participants at the 25th Anniversary celebrations of the Steveston Buddhist Temple Women's Auxillary. (November 21, 1977)



Congregation assembled for the 60th Anniversary of the Steveston Buddhist Temple. (1988)



Participants at the 23th Annual B.C. Buddhist Convention held at Steveston, B.C. (November 16, 1978)



Mitts Sakai presenting gift to Gomonsu sama and Urakata sama.



Congregation gathered to welcome His Eminence Monshu Koshin Otani and Lady Noriko on their first official visit to Canada. (1984)



Delegates to the World Buddhist Women's Convention. (1990)



Participants at the 75th Anniversary celebrations of the Steveston Buddhist Temple (2003)

Mr. Atagi (on right), visiting from Japan, is a grandson of Tokumatsu Atagi, one of the founders of the Steveston Buddhist Temple.



Steveston Buddhist Temple 80th Anniversary Event. (2008)



Senior members. (2007)



Seniors participating at various Keirokai events.



Steveston Buddhist Temple volunteers in the annual mochitsuki event.

Dharma School activities.



Hanamatsuri



Father's Day Sleepover Picnic,
Halloween and Bowling
(2009-2011)

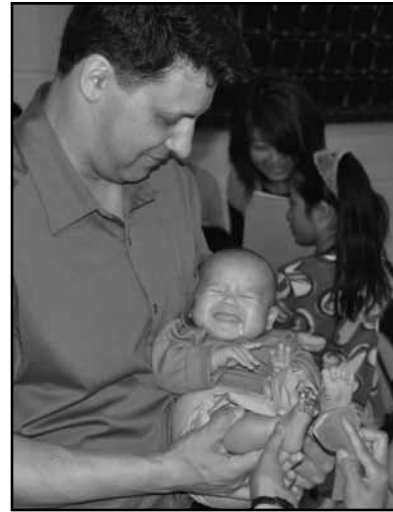


Fujinkai members in action preparing food for temple festivities. (ca. 1964)



Steveston Buddhist Temple members selling food at bazaar. (2005/2008/2009)





Takarajima Japanese Playgroup activities (2008-2011)

Infant Presentation Ceremony (2009 & 2011)

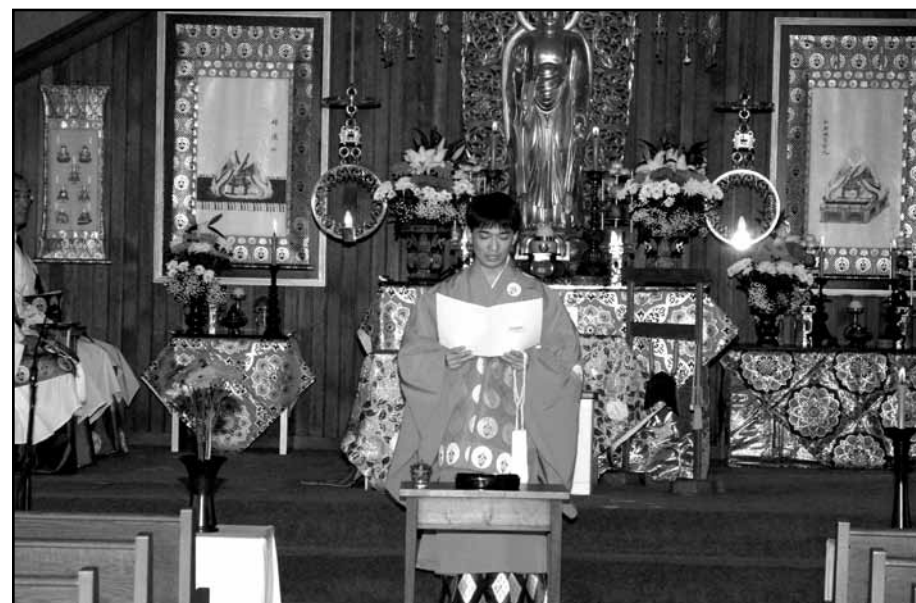
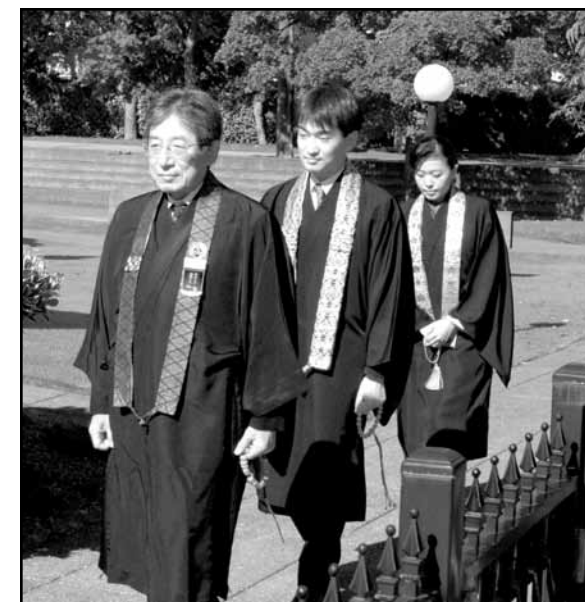
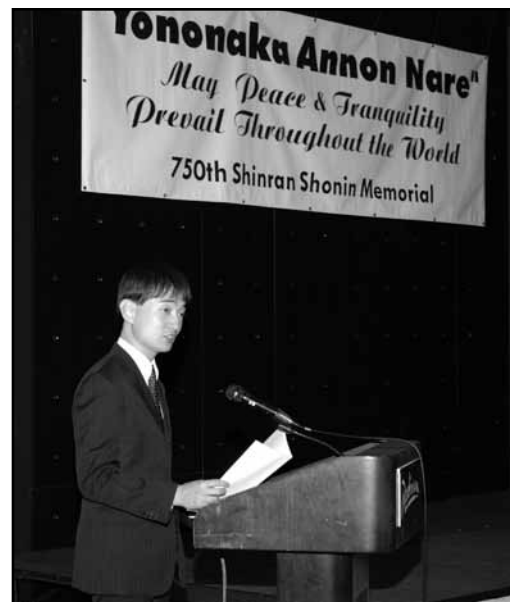
Obon festivities at the Minoru Oval. (1979)



Steveston Buddhist Temple participants in the Salmon Festival parade. (2008)

Obon festivities at the Steveston Buddhist Temple





750th Shinran Shonin Memorial Celebration at SBT, with Shinmon-Sama and his wife Shin Urakata-Sama leading the service and attending a number of events held in their honour. (Sept, 2010)





Canada Cares: March 11, 2011 Japan Earthquake Relief Fundraising Event, Including Bill McNulty, City Counsellor and Japanese Consul Hideki Ito with Temple President Bud Sakamoto



Steveston Buddhist Temple
 4360 Garry St. Richmond BC
www.steveston-temple.ca
 604-277-2323