



法のともしび LIGHT OF THE DHARMA

REGULAR EVENTS:

SEIZA MEDITATION:

Thursdays 7:30 pm
& Fridays 10:30 am

TRIPLE SUTRA CHANTING

Fridays 11:00 am -12:00 pm

YOGA with Alanna

Hatha: Mon & Thur 5:30 pm
Chair: Sat 9:30 am

BINGO:

Wednesdays 6:30pm

See Monthly Calendar for details

COMING UP:

Sun Dec 4th,

10:30 am Shotsuki Service

Tuesday Dec 6th

7:30 Fall Lecture Series

Sun Dec 11th,

9:00 am Temple Clean Up

Monday Dec 12th

7:30 pm Board Meeting

Tuesday Dec 13th

7:30 Fall Lecture Series

Saturday Dec 17th

9:00 Mochi Tsuki (Mochi Making)

Sunday Dec 18th,

10:00 am Dharma School

10:30 am Bodhi Day Service

12:00 Bonenkai Year End Party

Sunday Dec 25th,

NO SERVICE

Saturday Dec 31st,

11:30 pm Joya no Kane
(New Years Eve Service)

Sunday Jan 1st

10:30 am Shu Sho E

(New Years Day Service)

- Shotsuki Service will be Jan 8th

FUJINKAI TOBAN 3

Contact: Chizuru Nakatsu
604-277-8073

Rotten Monk



Although I am without shame and self-reproach
And lack a mind of truth and sincerity,
Because the Name is directed by Amida,
Its virtues fill the ten quarters.

(From Shinran Shonin's Hymns of the Dharma-Ages
Collected Works of Shinran pg. 421)

With the length of the daytime seemingly getting shorter by the day, as hard as it is to believe, 2016 is quickly coming to a close. We have been receiving more than our share of rain this year and I hope you are all taking care of yourselves to not catch a cold.

The other day, I was over at my mother's place when she handed me an article my father had written some time ago. She said she found it cleaning up her desk. Reading the article brought back a flood of memories as my father had written about an incident that happened at our place when we were still living in Toronto.

One winter holiday my parents were visiting us from Calgary and they were babysitting while my wife and I were out doing errands. We still only had the two boys at the time and Dylan, our second son must have been around 7 or 8 years old, which means this happened about 15 years ago. Apparently, my father said something to Dylan that angered him and he called my father a "Kuso Bozu" in Japanese, which is translated into English as "Rotten Monk" (more literally as "Sh*tty Monk") Shocked by what he had heard, my father gave Dylan a real scolding making him cry. It was only afterwards that my father realized that Dylan had heard of the term from watching the Japanese Animation and didn't really understand the true meaning of the word.

My father wrote that he felt ashamed and a bit embarrassed as he realized it was his own ego that got him flustered when he was called a "Rotten Monk" by a mere child. It was then that he also remembered the above passage from the Hymns of Shinran Shonin in which Shinran states that he "lacks the mind of truth and sincerity" and yet despite that, because of Name, Namo Amida Butsu, directed to us by Amida Buddha, we receive the virtue of the Dharma.

Having read the article with much fondness I was reminded that, I too have unwittingly probably caused trouble or inconvenience for others around me throughout the year and the article was my father's way of telling me not to get too high on myself. A message that is most appropriate for the year end as we can all reflect on our actions over the past year.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support throughout 2016 and may you enjoy a peaceful Holiday Season and all the best in the New Year!!

In Gassho,
Grant Ikuta

MONTHLY TOBAN GROUPS

TEMPLE CLEANUP
IS DECEMBER 11th
Everyone please come

JANUARY: Team 5
LEAD: Hirose, Ted
604-275-8315
Ang, Francis & Joyce
Fukakusa, Shinobu
Hirano, Naoki
Hirose, Mary
Hirota, Kyoko
Ikuta, Kuni & June
Sakamoto, Chikako
Stewart, Dan

FUJINKAI



This month's focus has been on making apple pies with the apples brought by Alan Yamaoka from Kelowna. We have had two sessions so far resulting in 80 pies of various sizes. Ten volunteers have shown up each Saturday to wash, peel, slice, mix and wrap.

Batches of pastry were made in advance on Bingo nights as the two regular Fujinkai volunteers are relatively free due to Mary Muraio and Patty Tipple being available to sell the refreshments from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. A third apple pie making session is scheduled for November 26. Then we will have a break until January.

The cancellation of our Craft Fair provided a pleasant break despite the apple pie making. However, we are open to any suggestions to replace the craft fair. Any ideas?

Thank you to Miyuki Toyoda's daughters for their donation of potato chips. It has proven to be a popular item for the bingo players, sandwich makers and volunteers.

Mochi Tsuki

The temple is looking for helpers to make mochi for the Bonenkai party. We will be pounding 80 lbs of Mochi on Saturday, Dec. 17th from 9:00 am. Rice washing will take place the day before on Friday. If you are able to help on either date it would be appreciated. Mochi making has been a long time tradition carried on by a group of dedicated Fujinkai ladies. However, the time has finally come for some of the younger generation to receive the baton and carry on with this tradition. If you are able to spare some time on Saturday morning and would like to have some fun, please contact Rev. Grant and let him know you will be able to help out.



HOONKO 2017



Hoonko January 21st ~ 22nd, 2017
Guest Minister: Rev. Orai Fujikawa
Retired minister

Saturday, January 21st, 5:30 pm
Hoonko Eve Potluck Dinner

Saturday, January 21st, 2017, 7:00 pm
Hoonko Eve Service followed by
"An Evening with Rev. Fujikawa"

Sunday, January 22nd, 2017
10:00 am Hoonko Dharma School
10:30 am Hoonko Service
Guest Minister: Rev. Orai Fujikawa



BODHI DAY SERVICE

Commemorating the Enlightenment of Sakyamuni Buddha will be held on

Sunday, December 18, 2016

10:30 a.m.

Stay for the

BONENKAI PARTY

12:00 Noon

Cost: \$20 per person
Children under 12 are free

Enjoy fellowship with the Sangha
Good Food, Great Entertainment, Games, Gifts
RSVP by 3pm on Monday, December 12
Contact: Itoko Akune 604-244-7710 or
Hiroko Yoshihara 604-277-6521

Non perishable food items for Richmond Food Bank would be appreciated.



(highlights from last year)



Season's Greetings



From our family to yours, may we thank all of the members of the Steveston Buddhist Temple for your support and friendship throughout 2016. We wish all of you a peaceful and quiet holiday season and all the best in the coming year!!

Gassho,

(left to right) Noriko, Erin, Grant, Grandma Ikuta, Arthur, Courtney & Dylan

President's Message



I am privileged to have gone on the excursion to Japan and to attend the accession ceremony for the new head of the Jodo Shinshu denomination. It was truly an earth shaking experience not because of the occurrence of an earthquake ten minutes into the ceremony, but for the processional display with flutes and drums and the participation of Gomonshu's family. The four year old eldest son sat in front of us very maturely with his mother. Three generations of leadership participated in the celebration.

On the personal side I was able to take a side excursion to Kobe to visit my cousins. In my first visit to Japan fifty years ago I went to Kobe and I have vivid memories of narrow streets, covered street mall and heavy tiled roof houses. As you all know Kobe had a very damaging earthquake about twenty-five years ago. Sections of the city burned, houses fell over and the freeways collapsed. Today there is little resemblance of old Kobe. It is a modern city with tree lined boulevards, high rise buildings, subway networks, rebuilt waterfront and new residential areas. Although my cousins endured great hardship, they now live in very modern new houses. It is truly remarkable the rebuilding effort and again Kobe is a great city.

In gassho,
Bud Sakamoto, President Steveston Buddhist Temple

Tired of Wednesday TV shows? Losing too much at the casinos?

Take a break and volunteer at the Steveston Buddhist Temple Wednesday Bingo night and help raise much needed funds.

Experience not necessary!
Intangible benefits guaranteed!



Phone 604 277-2323 and leave your name and number with our secretary or come out Wednesday evening and just hang out.

Dharma School

In November we had our annual Stone Soup session. It was an opportunity to share the vegetables brought by the children. We shared the soup with everyone who came to the morning service. The children did a wonderful job and everyone enjoyed themselves. Shelley John brought Baby Kazuki so a nice visit was had by all.

Dharma School has been sponsoring a foster child through Plan since 1992. Our first child lived in Thailand, but the last one is from the Philippines. Leonard Empon at the age of 16 has graduated from the Plan International's Child sponsorship program. Our new sponsored child is Aljur, a boy of 8 also from the Philippines. Photos of Leonard and Aljur will be posted on the bulletin board.

In gassho,
Dharma School

NEW MEMBERS

** Welcome to the Steveston Buddhist Temple. **

Tsutomu Hoshi Shigeko Hoshi Masae Kikuchi

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

Message from the Office Keiko Go

The office will be closed from Dec. 23rd ~ 27th and Dec. 31 ~ Jan. 4th 2017. Thank you for your understanding.

Happy holidays everyone!!

YEAR END TEMPLE CLEAN-UP: Dec 11th

Come and cleanse the body, the temple, and the mind. Join us for our annual temple year end clean up on Sunday, Dec. 11th starting at 9:00 am. Help us clean the temple so we can welcome 2017 with a fresh start.



Moe No Kai Keiko Go

Yuki Tani from Tonari Gumi was a special guest for Moe No Kai held on Thursday, Oct. 27th who gave us a presentation on "Senior's Safety Living". The Government of BC is encouraging seniors and older adults to recognize and respond to elder abuse. Yuki gave seniors tips for staying safe from consumer and investment frauds, scams and identity thefts. Other forms include neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse. She also explained seniors how to live healthy mentally and physically. If anybody who could not attend the presentation and would like to get information on these topics, please ask me for brochures and booklets.

November Moe No Kai was held on Nov. 24th. Seniors were asked to make their original 2017 scrapbooks for Moe No Kai. They can put all their art work, printed article, photos and other information given from Moe No Kai in their individual scrapbooks.

December Moe No Kai will be held on Dec. 15th at 10am. This will be our last Moe No Kai for 2016.

Please join us.



OBITUARY



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

Masao Kawase	November 10, 2016	94 years old
Mitsuhiro Yamanaka	November 15, 2016	88 years old

DHARMA LIGHT

The Steveston Buddhist Temple sincerely appreciates and thanks the following for their generous donations:

General Donation: Bell Florence, Harada Jack, Hayashi Eizo, Hirano Naoki, Hirose Kim, Hirose-Cameron Lisa, Ikuta Makoto, Inouye Sumi, Luk Derek, Morimoto M., Nakanishi Mike & Frances, Niguma Kazuko, Nishimura Grace, Nitta Miyuki, Osaka Kikue, Suyama Eiji & Carolyn, Suyama David, Saxby & Julie, Suyama Kunio & Yoshie, Watanabe Keiko, Watanabe Saeki, Yamanaka Miyoko, Yoshida Misuye, Nikkei Centre (\$617.60)

In appreciation of the **Thursday evening meditation:** Mukai Shioko, Nakanishi Takashi (\$130)

Dharma Donation: Akune Roy & Itoko, Beresford Terry, Domai Kiyo, Hamaura Bob & Misaye, Harada Jack, Hirose Mary, Hirose-Cameron Lisa, Ikuta Makoto, Ikuta Teruko, Morishita Elmer, Nakatsuru Sherry, Oki Hiroshi, Ryan Larry & Jeanne, Watanabe Keiko, Yoshihara Hiroko, Anonymous (\$248)

JSBTC Donation: Sakai Tomiko (\$10)

Fall Bazaar Donation: Ikuta Teruko, Sugimoto Nori, (\$50)

Spring Bazaar Donation to Fujinkai: Akizuki Eiko, Akizuki Kinuyo, Go Keiko, Hama Helen, Hamanishi Yoshio & Betty, Hamaura Kelly, Hibi Aika, Higo Haruko, Hori Haruye, Ikuta June, Ikuta Makoto, Ikuta Teruko, Kariya Kimiko, Kishi Setsuko, Kitade Kiyoko, Kobayashi Miyako, Kondo Kaoru, Kondo Tamotsu & Chieko, Koyanagi Jean, Koyanagi Susie, Koyanagi Yoshiko, Maede T., Maede Koji & Judith, Morishita Michiyo, Morizawa Chiyoko, Murao Toshio, Nakano Yasuo & Minako, Nakata Andy & Masayo, Nakatsu T., Nishi Isao & Kayoko, Nishi Kazumi, Nitta Ayako, Ohara Nobuye, Okabe Mary, Ohara Isao, Oye Hanako, Sakamoto U., Sakata Hozumi, Sameshima Yoshiko, Shiozaki Masako, Tabata Hajime, Tabata Sumiko, Takasaki S., Dr. Tanaka Jim, Tanaka Emiko, Tasaka Teruko, Tomihiro Doc & Kazy, Tani Mutsumi, Yamamoto Kayoko, Yamanaka K., Yamanaka Miyoko, Yoshida Misuye (\$880)



Your Donations are needed and appreciated!

The Steveston Buddhist Temple sincerely appreciates and thanks everyone for their donations.

Donations are the single largest source of income for the temple, so we thank your contribution.

Hanamatsuri Donation: Teraguchi Nami

November Shotsuki: Akune Roy & Itoko, Atagi S., Bauman Paul & Elaine, Domai Kiyo, Hamanishi Yoshio & Betty, Hamaura Bob & Misaye, Hirano Masami, Hirose Mary, Kariya Florence, Kariya Kimiko, Kawabata M., Kawamoto Tobo & Hiroko, Kokubo Alice, Kuramoto Isao & Ina, Kuriyama Paul, Kuriyama Richard, Matsuno Seishi & Kisako, Matsumoto Y., Morimoto Family, Mizuta Harry & Akemi, Morizawa Chiyoko, Murao Heidy, Murao Keith Morizawa Sazare, Murao Jeanette, Murao Toshio, Nagasawa, Nakano Yasuo & Minako, Nishi Greg & Mary, Nishi Isao & Kayoko, Nishi Chizuko, Nishi Shizuko, Nitta Ayako, Nitta Jeff, Ohara Eiko, Oye Hanako, Ryan Larry & Jeanne, Sakai Mitsuka, Sakai Tomiko, Sakurai Tommy & Naomi, Sawada Masao & J, Sakamoto Bud, Tasaka Keith & Sandi, Tanaka Sam & Virginia, Tasaka Cherly, Tasaka Janice, Tasaka Teruko, Teramura Ken & Pauline, Tipple P., Tubajon Family, Ueyeyama Tom, Yetman Jean, Yoneda Kaz, Uyeda Yochiko, (\$1625)

In memory of the late:

Mr. Masao Kawase: Kawase Tad

Mrs. Katsuko Sawada & Mrs. Ume Sawada: Sawada Masao, Sawada J.

Mr. Masahiro Tony Ooka: Ooka Maureen, Anonymous

Mrs. Akiko Kato: Tomihiro Doc & Kazy, Yoshida Harry & S.

13th year service of the late Mr. Yoshimi Mori: Mori Fusako

1st year service of the mother: Marshall Rick & Reiko

1st year service of Mr. Shigekazu Morimoto: Morimoto Family (\$1,150)

Shichigosan Donation: Hayashida Terumi, Hearsey Kuniyo, Hews Family, Hoo Andrew, Kanagawa Tomoko, Kawasaki Tadaomi, Miyamaoto Family, Morner Family, Nixon Reika, Norcross Rikako, Parbhakar Kai, Plato Family, Sakai Family, Sasaki Fumiko, Thrift Sachie, Tsunoda Kaori, Tuazon Clark, Tommy Zablan Imaging (\$520)

**All donations after November 22nd will be announced in the next newsletter.

**Apologies to Mr. & Mrs. Tomihiro and Mr. & Mrs. Harry Yoshida for the late announcement

Membership 2016

Hamada Satoshi, Hamano Heidi, Hayashi Eizo, Hirano Naoki, Inoue Mike & Masako, Inouye Sumi, Jensen Neil & Mari, Matsubara Kiyoshi, Matsumoto Y., Murao Heidy, Murao Keith, Kariya Mayumi, Nagai Doug, Nakanishi Akemi, Phillips Kim, Suzuki Kent, Watanabe Keiko

DECEMBER 2016 MEMORIAL SERVICE (Please bring your "Homyo".)

Amadatsu, Toshi	Katayama, Gorosuke	Nakane, Mitsutaro	Sakai, (Frank) Yonekazu	Uno, Yoneko
Asari, Sadajiro	Kawasaki, Shizuko	Nakano, Kiichi	Sakai, Yoshiko	Uyeda, Haruo
Doi, Tomoyuki	Kimura, Kiyoko	Nakano, Sadao	Sakata, Eiichi	Yamashita, Douglas
Goto, Tokiyo	Kobayashi, Kotomoe	Nakatani, Inosuke	Sakata, Yone	Yesaki, Miyakichi
Hamade, Hiroshi	Koyanagi, Chuzo	Narukami, Uta	Sakata, Tomizo	Yokota, George
Hamaura, Motaro	Koyanagi, Herby	Nishi, Yoshiko	Sakashita, Yutaka	Yokota, Shigeo
Harada, Misako	Kuramoto, Jiro	Nishikihama, Mitsuo	Sakiyama, Aiko	Yoshida, Yonekichi
Higo, Yui	Maekawa, Fujie	Niwatsukino, Keiko	Sameshima, Kuniyoshi	Yukawa, Katsue
Hikita, Kojiro	Matsuyama, Iyo	Niwatsukino, Ume	Shinde, Eiko	Yoshida, Yoshiko
Hirose, Tanejiro	Mukai, George Seishi	Nomura, Kimiko	Suzuki, Fumi	
Kanno, Eiji	Mori, Kiyoshi	Ohara, Chieko	Tateyama, Kazue	
Kanno, Sakae	Morishita, Kino	Okano, Sekiji	Takasaki, Yukio	
Kariya, Yoshio	Morishita, Tome	Omori, Hiroshi	Tanigami, Hideko Ruth	

JANUARY 2017 MEMORIAL SERVICE (Please bring your "Homyo".)

Akune, Nariyoshi	Inouye, Ray	Morimoto, Nobuko	Oye, Koyo	Tanaka, Hitoshi
Arima, Janet Setsuko	Inouye, Tomi	Morishita, Hirako	Ono, Harue	Tanaka, Yoneharu
Asari, Kikue	Ishida, Chotaro	Murakami, Atsushi	Otobe, Tsuyoshi	Tani, Ichino
Domae, Hisajiro	Iwata, Hisaye	Mukai, Sadao	Sakamoto, Mamoru	Tarumoto, Hamasaburo
Domai, Nobuo	Kawase, Tadayoshi	Murao, Kenji	Sakiyama, Kumataro	Teraguchi, Mosaburo
Hamada, Reiji	Kimura, Hisashi	Nakata, Makio	Sakiyama, Mume	Uyeyama, Soichi
Hamade, Tsutomu	Kitamura, Michiko	Nakamura, Fujie	Sameshima, Toshiharu	Uyeyama, Yoshie
Hamade, Unosuke	Kobayashi, Noriyo	Nevins Tabata, Seiji Marcus	Sameshima, Toshiyuki	Yamada, Akio
Hamaguchi, Choichiro	Kojima, Tamino	Nishi, Minoru	Sano, Shizuko	Yamamoto, Kazumi
Harada, Akiko	Koyanagi, Mitsuo	Nishi, Toyo	Sato, Keizo	Yamashita, Teruo
Harada, Eikichi	Kuramoto, Kunji	Nishii, Noboru	Shimizu, Tamotsu	Yesaki, Masami
Hayashi, Mitsue	Kuramoto, Miyako	Niwatsukino, Hiroshi	Shiyoji, Mieko	
Hirose, Asako	Matsubara, Chiyoko	Nomura, Sakie	Takasaki, Hisako	
Hirota, Naokichi	Matsuo, Shizue	Oye, Kazue	Takeuchi, Shigeyoshi	



法のともしび

婦人会からのお知らせ

吉原ヒロコ



今月はケローナのヤマオカ・アランさんが寄付して下さったリングでアップルパイを作っています。すでに2回集まっているいろいろなサイズのパイを80個作りました！土曜日ごとに10人のボランティアが集まり、リ

ングを洗ったり、皮をむいたり、切ったり、包んだりしました。パイの生地は前もってビングの晩に作っておきました。というのは、ムラノ・メアリーさんとティップル・パティエさんがいつも4:30から6:30まで飲み物売るボランティアをしてくださいますので、婦人会の二人の方は少し時間に余裕があり、その時に作っていただきました。3回目のアップルパイ作りは11月26日です。これが終わると1月まで少し休めます。

手芸品バザーが中止になりましたので、アップルパイ作りはありましたが、いつもよりのんびりできました。でも手芸品バザーの代わりになるものがありましたらいつでもお知らせください。皆様のアイデアをお待ちしています。

豊田ミユキさんのお嬢さんたちからポテトチップスの寄付がありました。ビングの参加者やサンドイッチを作ってくれた方達、他のボランティアの人たちに大変喜ばれました。どうもありがとうございました。

成道会法要

お釈迦さまの降魔成道（悟りを開いた事）を記念した法要は

2016年12月18日（日）
午前10時半から行われます

忘年会のお知らせ
12月18日（日）
成道会法要後の正午から

お一人様 \$20

12歳 またはそれ以下のお子様は無料です。

美味しいお食事、素晴らしい余興、ゲームやプレゼントをお仲間でお楽しみましょう。

チケットのご購入は12月12日（月）までです。

阿久根イトコさん 604-244-7710

または、

吉原ヒロコさん 604-277-6521

まで、お問合せください。

恵まれない方のために、缶詰その他の食品を忘年会の日に回収しますので、お持ちくださいませ。

くそ坊主

無慚無愧(むざんむぎ)のこの身にて
まことのこころはなけれども
弥陀の回向の御名なれば
功德は十方にみちたまう

(無慚無愧とは：人に恥じる心もなく、天に恥じる心もないさま。)

(親鸞聖人の正像末和讃『浄土真宗注釈版聖典』617頁より)



日々寒さも深まり、2016年もあとわずかになってまいりました。しかし、今年は雨の多い年ですね。風邪をひきや

すい季節なので皆様も風邪をひかないようにご注意ください。

さて、先日母が「自分の机の整理をしていたら面白い記事を発見した」と、私に父が昔書いた記事を渡してくれました。内容は父と私の次男との出来事でした。息子がまだ4・5歳ごろだったので17年くらい前、私たちがまだトロントに住んでいたころの話です。両親が冬休みにカルガリーからトロントに遊びに来ていた時のある日のことでした。

父と母に息子たちのベビーシッターを頼んだ時、私の次男が父（彼のおじいちゃん）に向かって「くそ坊主」と言ったそうです。それを聞いて、かっと怒った父は「こら一、そんなひどい言葉を使うやつがあるか」と孫を叱り、泣かせたそうです。そして後になって父が気付いたことは、うちの息子が使った「くそ坊主」はどこかのアニメで聞いた言葉であって、あまり意味も分からずに使っていたものでした。

4・5歳の孫に腹を立てた自分の愚かさを反省し親鸞聖人が晩年に書かれた上記のご和讃を記事に載せた父は、自分は「くそ坊主」であり、そのような自分であるからこそ阿弥陀様の働きが必要であると親鸞聖人のお言葉を借りて説明していました。

そう言えばあんなこともあったなど懐かしく読みながら、多くの命や人々に迷惑をかけながら生きている私も「くそ坊主」であろうと、父の忠告を受けたような気がいたしました。

最後になりましたが、今年もお寺を支えていただいた皆様に心よりお礼を申し上げますと共に、皆さんに良いお正月を迎えられるように念じます。

来年もどうぞよろしく願い申し上げます。

合掌

生田真見

敬弔

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

カワセ	マサオ 様	2016年11月10日寂	94歳
山中	光弘 様	2016年11月15日寂	88歳

会長からのお知らせ



西本願寺の新しい門主様の引継ぎ法要に参加するために日本に行つて来る事が出来とてもありがたく思いました。式が始まって10分くらいしてから地震があったからではありませんが、雅楽の笛と太鼓の演奏並びにご門主様

ご家族の式へのご参加にとて心を揺るがされました。4歳のご長男がお母様とご一緒に静かに式に参加され、三代のご門主様方が式を共になさいました。

個人的には神戸でいとこを訪ねました。50年前に初めて日本に行ったときに神戸に行きましたが、狭い通りや、屋根で覆われた商店街、重い瓦屋根の家々等をまだはっきり覚えています。しかし、皆様もご存じのように神戸は約25年前に大地震に襲われました。町の一部が焼失し、家が倒壊し、フリーウェイも崩れ落ちました。でも今日では昔の神戸の面影はありません。並木の植えられた大通り、高層ビル、網の目のような地下鉄路線、新しい海浜地域や住宅地等でモダンな町に変身しました。私のいとこは大変な苦勞をしましたが、いまは近代的な家に住んでいます。復興の努力にはまったく目を見張り、神戸はまた素晴らしい町になりました。

合掌

坂本バッド、スティーブストン仏教会会長

New Year's Bell Ringing

With the days seemingly getting shorter and shorter and the weather getting colder and colder, it will only be a short while until the year 2016 comes to a close. One of the traditions associated with the year end is the New Year's Eve Temple Bell Ringing or the "Joya no Kane Tsuki" in Japanese. It also seems to have become a tradition that every year I have been receiving a number of questions regarding the meaning of the bell ringing. This year, being of no exception, I have already received a couple of questions about the Bell Ringing. To answer the questions, I am reissuing an article I wrote for the "Ask Sensei" column in the 2012 December Newsletter which addressed this question.

Question: Hi Sensei. I know you have already explained it before, but could you go over again why we strike the New Year's Eve Bell 108 times? - New Year's Eve Participant

Answer:

Dear Participant,

Let me begin by thanking you and all of the others who have asked questions throughout the year. I have heard a lot of feedback from people saying they enjoy reading this column in particular. Without the questions, this column would not exist.

Now, on with your question. As many of you may already know, there is a Japanese custom to attend the New Year's Eve Service to send off the previous year and ring in the New Year. It is quite an interesting custom as crowds of hundreds and even thousands gather at Buddhist temples and Shinto Shrines throughout Japan to spent time reflecting over the previous year and looking forward to the new year. I can still recall when I was studying in Japan, I spent one New Year's Eve together with my cousin and his wife. We visited the Yasaka Shinto Shrine and adjoining Chioin temple in Kyoto. Because so many people visit on New Year's Eve one of the major roads in Kyoto, Shijo Dori, is partially blocked off and turned into a pedestrian only zone. As we approached closer to the Shinto Shrine, the street became a sea of people. It was so crowded that we could only move with the flow of the wave of people. The throng of people carried us into the Shinto Shrine and then onto the Buddhist Temple. I remember thinking this is not such a peaceful way to spend the New Year's Eve as it was a far cry from the solemn and peaceful way of listening to the temple bell. Anyhow, I digress.

Getting back to your question, as part of the New Year's Eve Service (Jo-Ya E in Japanese), it is customary to ring the temple bell 108 times (Jo-Ya no Kane). According to traditional Buddhist interpretations, the temple bell is struck 108 times to wipe out our 108 human passions or defilements on New Year's Eve so that we can start the New Year with a clean slate.

There are several explanations on how the number 108 was derived. What is important is not to memorize all of the 108 afflictions, but to realize that we are indeed full of faults and defilements. Having said this, it is probably prudent to have a little more concrete answer than saying just that we are beings full of blind passions. Perhaps you may want to concentrate on the three major defilements, also known as the three poisons, in Buddhism, which are: greed, anger, and ignorance.

As we strike the bell on New Year's Eve, you may contemplate to yourself, "How many times over the course of the past year has my personal greed caused suffering to others?"

餅つきの案内

12月11日(土)午前9時から忘年会で配るもちのための餅つきが行われます。お手伝いをしていただける方は生田先生の方に連絡してください。宜しくお願ひします。



お寺の年末大掃除

12月17日(日)午前9時から年末の大掃除が行われます。皆様のお寺です。一人でも多くの方にご参加くださるよう、ご協力お願ひ致します。



萌の会

郷 恵子

10月27日(木)に行われた萌の会では、隣組の谷ゆきさんをスペシャルゲストとしてお招き致しました。谷さんは、BC州の高齢者の企画テーマである“高齢者安全生活”を担当され

現在各日系ノンプロフィット団体を訪問されています。高齢者が日頃どのように安全に生活ができるかを説明してくれました。その中には、高齢者の詐欺事件、虐待被害、自宅での転倒事故と健康管理についてが主でした。今回行われたワークショップに出席できなく、尚、上記の内容のパンフレット等希望する方には、オフィスにコピーが未だ数冊ありますのでお問い合わせ下さいませ。尚、11月の萌の会は24日に行われました。来年の萌の会のため、個々の、スクラップブックを作りました。自分達のオリジナルのスクラップブックには、来年萌の会で作る自分達の芸術作品や、お報せ、情報、記録、写真などを記念に残すことができます。オリジナルスクラップブックに沢山の記念を入れて欲しいものです。

12月の萌の会は、15日の木曜日午前10時から行われます。今年最後の萌の会ですので、どうぞご参加下さいませ。お待ちしております。

Many Families came to the 7-5-3 Event, that Sensei had to hold two services! Kids dressed up, took photos and received a present.



As we strike the bell on New Year's Eve, you may contemplate to yourself, "How many times over the course of the past year have I lost my temper and gotten angry causing suffering to others?"

As we strike the bell on New Year's Eve, you may contemplate to yourself, "How many times has my ignorance led me to false conclusions causing suffering to others?"

Finally, as we strike the bell on New Year's Eve, you may contemplate to yourself, "All the suffering I cause to others is the root of my own suffering."

By contemplating in this manner, the bell ringing becomes, not just a ceremony, but truly an opportunity for us to reflect on our actions over the past year. At the same time, it is a time for us to realize how fortunate we are, despite all the suffering we may have caused, that the Dharma keeps

guiding me making me aware of the interconnectedness of all beings. As Shinran Shonin mentions in the Tannisho, a Record in Lament of Divergence

"Because I am a being bound by so much karmic evil, I feel even more deeply grateful to the (Amida Buddha's) Primal Vow which is determined to save me."

May I ask you to join us on New Year's Eve, December 31st at 11:30 pm for the Joya-E (New Year's Eve service) followed by the ringing of the 'Joya no Kane' (New Year's Eve bell ringing). Once you have taken your turn to ring the temple bell, stick around and enjoy a bowl of special New Year's Eve Udon prepared by the Steveston Buddhist Temple Men's Sangha group.

In Gassho,
Grant Ikuta



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

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

Join the Sangha and spread the Dharma

CALENDAR OF EVENTS			DECEMBER 2016 & JANUARY 2017			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30 am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service	2:30 pm Maples Service 5:30 Hatha Yoga	7:30 Fall Lectures	6:30 pm Bingo	5:30 Hatha Yoga 7:30 pm Meditation	11:00 am Triple Sutra Chanting	9:30 Chair Yoga
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00 am Semi Annual Temple Cleanup	5:30 Hatha Yoga 7:30 pm Board Meeting	7:30 Fall Lectures	6:30 pm Bingo	5:30 Hatha Yoga 7:30 pm Meditation	11:00 am Triple Sutra Chanting	9:00 Mochi Tsuki (Mochi Making)
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:00 Dharma School Bodhi Day 10:30 am Bodhi Day Service 12 noon Bonenkai Party			11:00 Nikkei Home Service 6:30 pm Bingo			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Day - No Service			6:30 pm Bingo			11:30 pm Joya no Kane (New Years Eve Service)
JAN 1, 2017	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:30 am Shu Sho E (New Years Day Service) - Shotsuki Service will be Jan 8th	2:30 pm Maples Service		6:30 pm Bingo	7:30 pm Meditation	11:00 am Triple Sutra Chanting	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10:30 am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service	5:30 Hatha Yoga 7:30 Board Meeting		6:30 pm Bingo	5:30 Hatha Yoga 7:30 pm Meditation	11:00 am Triple Sutra Chanting	9:30 Chair Yoga
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:30 am Regular Service	5:30 Hatha Yoga		10:00 Nikkei Home Service 6:30 pm Bingo	5:30 Hatha Yoga 7:30 pm Meditation	11:00 am Triple Sutra Chanting	9:30 Chair Yoga 5:30 Hoonko Potluck 7:00 Special Service
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:00 am Dharma School Service 10:30 Hoonko Service & Luncheon	5:30 Hatha Yoga		6:30 pm Bingo	5:30 Hatha Yoga 7:30 pm Meditation	11:00 am Triple Sutra Chanting	9:30 Chair Yoga
29	30	31	Feb 1st	2	3	4
10:30 am Regular Service	5:30 Hatha Yoga		6:30 pm Bingo	5:30 Hatha Yoga 7:30 pm Meditation	10:30 am Meditation 11:00 am Triple Sutra Chanting	9:30 Chair Yoga