



# JSBTC NEWSLETTER

FROM THE JSBTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dr. Roland Ikuta, Rev. James Martin, Ken Madden Sensei, Socho Aoki, Rev. Yoshi Ouchi, Tanis Moore

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first issue of the JSBTC newsletter. We hope that this newsletter will be a voice for Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in Canada, keeping you up-to-date on what the JSBTC is doing, sharing information about the JSBTC and the Temples in Canada, and connecting us all. We are planning to send out three issues each year, in January, May and September/October.

## WHAT IS THE JSBTC?

The primary purpose of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC) is to provide Canadians general access to Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teachings. The JSBTC was first established in 1905 as an affiliate of the Nishi Hongwanji, and it is comprised of twelve Temples in Canada: Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Winnipeg, BTSA (Lethbridge), Calgary, Vernon, Kelowna, Kamloops, Fraser Valley, Vancouver and Steveston. The JSBTC has a Board of between 6 and 11 members; currently there are 8 members: Larry Wakisaka (President), Harvey Kaita (Vice-President), Greg Chor (Treasurer), Debra Campbell Hayashi (Secretary), Amy Wakisaka, Trudy Gahlinger, Kent MacCarl, and Laura Sugimoto, with Dave Otori as Past President/Adviser.

## VISION

A community living a life of gratitude on the path of the Buddha Dharma.

## MISSION

Acting as a catalyst for growing a network of Jodo Shinshu Buddhist centers through dynamic and focused leadership.

## VALUES

To perform our responsibilities in the best interest of the Sangha by walking the path of the Buddha Dharma side by side, practicing the Nembutsu teachings and applying the following values and principles in our duty as Directors:

- Compassion: Strive to reflect on the boundless life force of unconditional love, compassion and wisdom that leads to a pure and calm mind
- Gratitude: Recognize causes and conditions that have given us our life, and endeavor to live a life of gratitude and demonstrate appreciation to those around us
- Respect: Remember the interconnected relationship of all things and show reverence and equality to all
- Honesty: embrace honesty and communicate works of simple truth
- Humility: Seek to be humble and sincere in words and in deeds
- Community: Appreciate the heart and work of Shin Buddhists in the Temple community (Sangha) and all other communities

## WHY IS THERE A JSBTC?

The JSBTC is the connection among the Temples in Canada and with other Jodo Shinshu Temples internationally, including Nishi Hongwanji (the mother temple) in Japan. While there are regional groupings of temples, as in BC, the JSBTC is the only formal way in which we can meet and share across the country. The JSBTC supports the Socho (Bishop) in recruiting and developing ministers for the Canadian Temples, it provides national funding for ministers' benefits and retirement, it supports the development of lay dharma leaders and it enable funds to be pooled for better investment strategies.

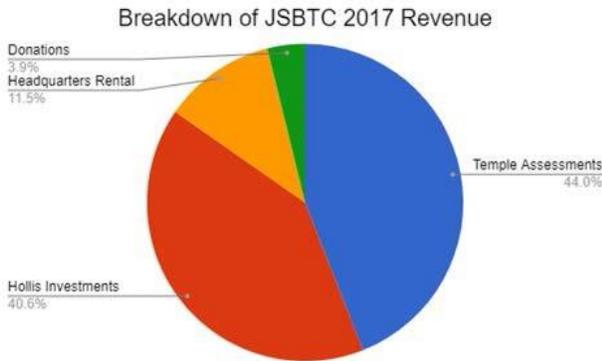
## WHAT DOES THE JSBTC DO?

### 1. What Services does the JSBTC provide to my temple?

- Minister Benefits: The JSBTC provides health and retirement benefit programs for your minister by pooling the resources of all temples. This gives the ministers better health and retirement savings plans by optimizing the return on investment. It also reduces the workload of the temples through centralized negotiation and administration of these benefits.
- The Office of the Bishop (Socho): The JSBTC employs the Bishop (Socho) as the spiritual leader in Canada coordinating amongst our ministers, communicating with the Nishi Hongwanji (mother temple) in Kyoto, Japan, and representing Canada internationally.
- Fund Administration: The JSBTC administers the funds of the Living Dharma Centre, the Ministers Retirement Fund, the Bishop's Special Fund, the Sustaining Fund and the Women's Federation Funds. The JSBTC manages these funds in compliance with the Canada Revenue Agency and Industry Canada regulations for Non-Profit Charities by means of our corporate by-laws.
- The JSBTC, directly and through these different groups, provides supplemental retirement funds to retired ministers, training and education support for ministers and lay dharma leaders, and support for nationally funded projects such as the Youth Tour to Hongwanji.

### 2. Who Works for the JSBTC? The JSBTC has 2 part time employees including Bishop Tatsuya Aoki Socho (shared bishop position) and Bookkeeper Joanne Yuasa Sensei and 8 volunteer Directors.

3. Where does the JSBTC get its funding?



This pie chart shows the breakdown of revenue for 2017 (the last complete year): Temple assessments of \$80/individual member represent nearly half of the JSBTC’s annual income; 11% comes from renting the JSBTC headquarters in Steveston, BC; donations on Jodo Shinshu Day account for 4%; JSBTC investments returned 40% of 2017’s income. The JSBTC has been very fortunate that its investment portfolio with HollisWealth (Scotiabank) has had excellent returns in the last several years. The Board recognizes that the

investment income is extremely difficult to predict and therefore takes a very careful, prudent approach to those funds.

4. Where does my temple membership fee go?

In 2017, \$80 of your temple membership fee passed directly to the JSBTC. The Board has held the JSBTC dues at the \$80 per individual member for the past three years.

	Prorated Portion of Assessment	Actual Cost
Minister’s Benefits & Retirement Plans	\$16.36	\$22.31
Minister’s Costs (Registration, Travel, MA Subsidy & Training)	\$7.54	\$10.28
<b>Bishop Costs (Salary, CPP, EI, Travel)</b>	<b>\$22.84</b>	<b>\$31.15</b>
JSBTC Headquarters Costs	\$16.12	\$21.99
Accounting Costs	\$5.35	\$7.30
AGM Costs	\$11.80	\$16.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$80.00</b>	<b>\$109.12</b>

How was this spent? \$24 of this funds your minister’s health and retirement savings plans and other minister related costs. \$23 pays the costs of the Bishop. \$21 funds headquarter and accounting costs. \$12 goes towards the cost of the Annual General Meeting where Directors are elected, financial statements reviewed, budgets are discussed and approved, and major decisions made.

We were very fortunate that in 2017, our investment and rental returns averaged \$28/individual member, and thus covered the difference between the Actual cost and the Prorated Portion of the Assessment.

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*JSBTC is looking for a volunteer or volunteers(s) to manage the national website and all other social media platforms on behalf of the Board of Directors. If this is you, please contact Laura Sugimoto, JSBTC Communication Committee Chair at [laura.sugimoto@gmail.com](mailto:laura.sugimoto@gmail.com). We are grateful for any assistance you can provide.*

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## JSBTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Back row left to right: Trudy Gahlinger, Greg Chor, Rev. Grant Ikuta, Kent MacCarl

Front row: Larry Wakisaka, Laura Sugimoto, Amy Wakisaka, June Asano (WF), Socho, Debra Campbell Hayashi (missing Harvey Kaita)

### Larry Wakisaka, President



Nationally, Larry has served on the JSBTC Board as a Director for the past eight years and as JSBTC Vice President for the past six years. He is now currently President of JSBTC. On the National Board he has acted as Chair for the Bishop Affairs Committee (BAC), as Chair of the Nomination Committee, on the Ministers' Retirement Fund (MRF) Committee and more recently as a Trustee for the MRF.

Locally, he is currently President of Toronto Buddhist Church. He also served as President of TBC in 2011 and 2012. The TBC Board of Directors is gender balanced with various skill sets represented on the Board. TBC was honoured and glad to host the JSBTC AGM and the JSBTC Fall interim Meetings in 2017.

Larry is a founder and one of three principal owners of two businesses which have been in operation for the past 38 years. He is dedicated to the sharing and spreading of the Buddha Dharma and in nurturing and in developing a strong sense of sangha community both locally and nationally. He shares a wonderful life with his better half Amy and three wonderful (now adult) children Caitlin, Matt and Patrick.

**Harvey Kaita, Vice President**

Nationally, Harvey has served on the JSBTC Board as a Director for the past four years. On the National Board he has acted as Chair on the Full-time Bishop Position Committee, the By-Law Committee and the Bishop Affairs Committee, and he is a Trustee for the Ministers' Retirement Fund. Locally, he is the President of the Manitoba Buddhist Temple where he has been a Director on the Board since 1993 and has served as President for six terms.

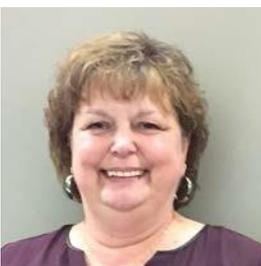
Harvey retired in July 2016 after a 37-year career with Manitoba's largest telecommunication company where he progressed to several senior positions including Vice President of a R&D company called TRTech. Harvey has a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering and has completed executive programs at the University of Manitoba, University of Toronto and Queen's University.

Harvey is married to Sandra and they have four children. When he isn't spending time at the temple, he can usually be seen playing golf, curling or at the gym with Sandra. They are enjoying retirement by travelling including trips to Japan, Thailand and Vietnam.

**Greg Chor, Treasurer**

Greg Chor has been a Director of the JSBTC since 2010 serving 2 years as President in 2013 and 2014 and the remainder as Treasurer. His major focus has been on the consolidation of the financial structure and operations of the JSBTC and all its components including the Living Dharma Centre, Women's Federation, Minister's Retirement Fund and the Bishop's Special Fund to meet the evolving requirements of the Canada Revenue Agency. As a Director for over a decade on the Vancouver Buddhist Temple board his primary responsibilities are building operations and maintenance, Dharma education programs and investments management. Greg enthusiastically innovates to generate recurring operating revenues for the JSBTC and the Vancouver Buddhist Temple. Greg has an honours degree in Finance and Information Systems and is retired from an international business management and development career in banking and financial services information systems. His hobbies include hiking, hockey, travel and cycling. He has a keen interest in expanding access to the Buddha Dharma.

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**Debra Campbell Hayashi, Secretary**

Debra has served on the JSBTC Board as a Director for three years, two of those years as the JSBTC Secretary. On the National Board she has participated on the Ministers' Retirement Fund (MRF) Committee and more recently as a Trustee for the MRF. She also served on the Women's Federation from 2013 to 2016 and two of those years as the Secretary.

Locally, Debra is currently the Events Coordinator and Director for the Vernon Buddhist Temple. She also served on the Vernon Interfaith Committee from 2015 to 2017 as the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist representative.

Debra is a member of the Musqueam Indian Band, a Coast Salish Community located in Vancouver, BC. She is currently employed as the Master Instructor in First Nation land management, working with several post-secondary institutions, and has served on many committees, advisory boards, etc. for 40 years at First Nation, provincial and federal levels.

Debra has survived her husband Arnie Hayashi JSBTC Board of Director, Sensei Naoko Hayashi, mother-in-law and Sensei Michael Hayashi, nephew, all of whom have been wonderful teachers in the Dharma. She shares a beautiful fulfilling life with her children, grandchildren and sangha community.

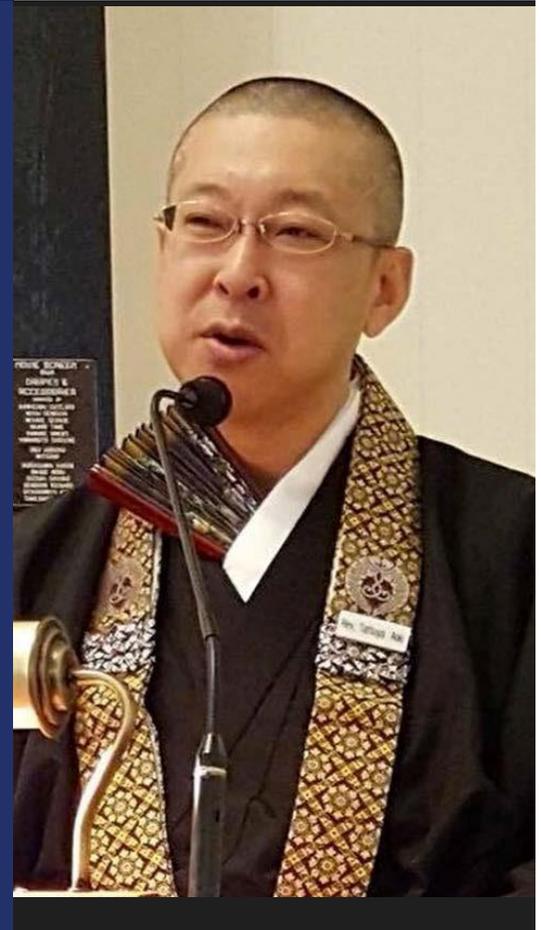
## Socho Tatsuya Aoki Sensei

**Born & Raised:** Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan

**Education:** Sapporo Kosei High School 1991;  
University of Lethbridge, Bachelor Degree in Religious Studies 1998;  
Central Buddhist Academy, Kyoto, Japan 2001;  
Ryukoku University, Master's Degree in Buddhist Studies 2004

**Orientations & Certificates:**  
Tokudo Ordination 1991;  
Kyoshi Certification 2002;  
Kaikyoshi Certification 2003;  
Fukyoshi Certification 2013

**Assignments:** Vancouver Buddhist Temple/Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple 2003 – Current;  
Bishop of JSBTC 2013-Current



### MESSAGE FROM SOCHO

Welcome to the year 2019! Looking back, the year 2018, with all its ups and downs, has given us many moments to be grateful for.

With gratitude for the year past, I look forward to the new year ahead. One of our senior members said to me, “Aoki sensei, I just try to take it one day at a time; and I am grateful for every day.” This also reflects the very essence of Buddhism. Within each day, let us try to take it a moment at a time, and be grateful for every moment. To live with such day-to-day, moment-to-moment appreciation, we call a life of Nembutsu.

Namo Amida Butsu.  
Tatsuya Aoki  
Office of the Bishop, JSBTC  
Reverend Tatsuya Aoki  
青木龍也

### FAVOURITE WORD

“ITADAKIMASU”

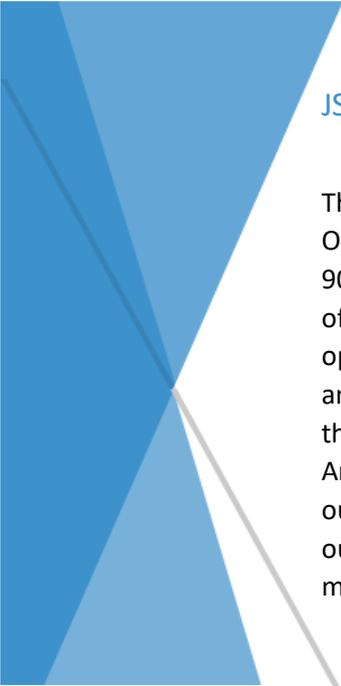
いただきます”

## TEMPLE STORY

Vancouver Buddhist Temple celebrates 115 years of Shin Buddhism in Canada! In 1904, fourteen Buddhist followers gathered to discuss the construction of a Buddhist temple in Vancouver. They decided to build a new temple and to request the mother temple in Kyoto to send a minister to Canada. Rev. Senju Sasaki arrived as the first minister in Vancouver on October 12, 1905. On November 9, 1906, property at 32 Alexander St. was purchased. This location became the center of activity for Jodo Shinshu followers.

As a result of the Second World War, all Canadians of Japanese descent were ordered to evacuate the west coast. Consequently, the Buddhist temple was closed. In 1949, the War Measures Act was lifted and Japanese-Canadians were permitted to return to the coast. In 1951, the Vancouver Buddhist Temple was re-organized. In 1954, the Methodist Church building at 220 Jackson Ave. was purchased. This renovated building served the needs of our members until 1978 when it was decided that a new building on the site should be built. In 1979, the new temple was completed and has been the location of the Vancouver Buddhist Temple to present.

The Temple celebrates its 115th Anniversary and the 40th anniversary of the current building in 2019. Temple traditions are challenged by the aging of our core membership. Programs are transitioning to include meeting the growing spiritual needs of the broader local community. The focus for our fundraising during this momentous year is to modernize our building's elevator to allow greater and more convenient accessibility.



### JSBTC BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Board enjoyed a successful and inspirational two-day meeting in Steveston in October with the Ministerial Association, as well as celebrating Steveston Temple's 90th anniversary. We were fortunate to have Dr. Jeff Wilson Sensei from University of Waterloo, Renison College (Ontario), and give three sessions, two of which were open to the public. He reviewed the history of Buddhism in Hawaii, United States, and Canada, and discussed the connections between the various types of Buddhism that attract western society. He outlined the challenges that Jodo Shinshu in North America faces, and encouraged the Board to consider the changing demographics of our society, to rethink our model of "church building and services" and to change our delivery models. While it was a sobering look at the current reality, it was also motivating, and it gave the Board a lot to think about.

## MORE HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2018

Tokudo Training in Calgary, AB: Tanis Moore (MBT) and Dr. Roland Ikuta (BTSA), comments on December 15, 2016:

The weekend of December 14-16<sup>th</sup> was our first pre-Tokudo training in Calgary. I would first like to express my gratitude to Socho Aoki, Ouchi Sensei from TBC, and James Martin Sensei. They were very helpful in teaching us some of the important material we need to know for our Tokudo session coming in July 2019 in Japan. It was a very intense but rich weekend. It started with us trying on Robes that we need for our training. This was certainly a sobering experience as I felt that I was not worthy of wearing such auspicious clothing. We did lots of chanting, learned how to walk on the Naijin, how to handle the Gobunsho. I would particularly like to thank the members of the Calgary Buddhist Temple who welcomed and hosted us during the weekend. We also made the congregation go through the Shoshinge during the Sunday service which I am sure was a painful experience for some. Tanis, I and our other Tokudo candidate (Jeff Haines from Brooks) will be attending further pre-Tokudo sessions in Berkley in January, April and May prior to going to Kyoto for our ultimate test. While we are all nervous about the upcoming work load to memorize the various sutras and recitations, we are excited about the challenge and opportunity that is ahead of us. We are grateful for the kindness and support from everybody in Calgary and the JSBTC. (Dr. Roland Ikuta)

Roland and I were most fortunate to take part in the Tokudo Preparation workshop, hosted at the Calgary Buddhist Temple. Our instructors included Rev. Aoki from Vancouver, Rev. Ouchi from Toronto, and Rev. James Martin from Calgary. The focus was on robe wearing and folding; chanting; rituals and general demeanor, and what Tokudo means. Thanks to excellent guidance and teachings I am now more committed on my pathway to Tokudo. The highlight was sitting on the Naijin for the Sunday morning service in our robes along with the three ministers and Ken Madden sensei, sharing in the chanting of Shoshinge complete with wasan. Of course, this wouldn't be complete without mentioning the wonderful lunch we were served at the temple on Saturday! Thank you all! I was happy to see the Calgary Temple (my first time) and to meet some of the members there. (Tanis Moore)



### DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that “mottainai” is a Buddhist concept and not just what your mother said? We know that it means “wasteful”, but it is Buddhist term meaning “not in accordance with the non-self-existing nature of things”. A fundamental tenant of Buddhism is that there is no self-existing thing but rather that all things are the result of various causes and conditions and exist in a state of mutual interdependence. To realize this is to have a deep sense of gratitude and connectedness to all sentient beings and sense of responsibility for each other. In observing nature, nothing is seen to be wasted, but rather everything is seen to be recycled. This is the essential way of things. Not to be in accord with this essential way of things is not to see the non-self-existing nature of all things, it is mottainai, i.e., wasteful. (With thanks to Rev. Masao Kodani).



## LIVING TREASURE OF CANADIAN JODO SHINSHU BUDDHISM

The JSBTC wishes to acknowledge and honour those who have made, and continue to make, a significant contribution to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in Canada. This is the first in our first Living Treasures series.

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### TERUKO IKUTA

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Teruko (Terrie) was born January 1st, 1935, in Kyoto, the second daughter of Shoken and Hideko Yamazaki; her father was the sixteenth head minister of Myojunji Temple and a professor of religious education at Ryukoku University. She was raised in a strong Buddhist environment, but while most families in Japan were Buddhist, many people were looking to the West and Buddhism was losing its relevance in people's lives. Terrie's father had originally wanted to go abroad to propagate the teachings of Buddhism, to make it more relevant, and to attract more people, but as the only son in a temple family, his obligation was to carry on the family temple. However, the dream to go out and teach never left him, and he passed it on to Terrie. In Japan after the war, Buddhism was considered old fashioned; young people found Western culture to be more attractive. Terrie was disappointed in the temples because they were not providing what people, especially young people, needed. There was too much emphasis on ritual and the more important part was gone; society was in turmoil after the war.

In 1956, her father and another professor at Ryukoku University arranged for Terrie to meet a Buddhist graduate student from Canada named Susumu Ikuta. Sus made an immediate good impression because he was so different than the other young men she knew. Sus had thought seriously about Buddhism, he knew what he wanted to do, and he had a vision about the future of temples. Terrie says that from their first date, she knew that she could support and help Sus in achieving his convictions.

Terrie and Sus were married in March 1957, and although Sus planned to complete his doctorate, only a year later, they had to return to Canada after Sus's father, Rev. Shinjo Ikuta was injured in a car accident and Sus had to step in as the sole Buddhist minister in BC.

In 1968, the family followed Sus back to Kyoto where he was working on his PhD, with Terrie managing to organize, pack or sell everything and take care of their four young children. After three and a half years, they headed back to Canada with Sus convinced that they needed to go where a new Temple should be established. Sus volunteered for Calgary. For the first year, BCC paid part of the minister's salary, but then determined that it could not afford to support a minister in Calgary. While the BCC wanted him to move to Toronto or Vancouver, Sus was determined to stay in Calgary and cast about for ideas to support the Sangha and his family. They settled on the idea of a Japanese restaurant: and so OMI of Japan was created.

The Sangha in Calgary first met in members' homes, and then rented space first in an Oddfellows' Hall and then in the Maccabees' Hall. In 1980, the Sangha purchased an old Catholic church which became the permanent home of the Calgary Buddhist Temple.

Throughout this time, Sus never drew a salary from the Temple, and Terrie worked for many years at both OMI and then Edo to support the businesses. She also managed a home which included not only their four children, but many other young people including students from Japan and friends of the children. It was, she says, a Buddhist way of life. There were no luxuries, but there was always miso soup and rice. Everyone in the family was hard working: you do what you must do.

Terrie brought that same focus to the Calgary Buddhist Temple. There was no organized fujinkai, but there was a group of women with Terrie at its core which started and then ran the annual fund raisers and other temple activities. It was, she says, a good group – no criticisms, no complaints, comfortable, every person doing what she could. In other words, it reflected Terrie herself. Terrie was the “minister’s wife”, doing everything from teaching Dharma School, teaching at the Japanese Language School, going on youth tours to Japan, to making ohagi for Ho-onko. As well, in supporting Sus, Terrie made it possible for him to be everything that he was: minister, businessman, academic. They were, her family says, a good team: Sus had lots of ideas and Terrie always came along behind to follow up on them and finish them. Only once did she say no to Sus: during the financial difficulties surrounding the OMI receivership, Sus decided to resign the ministry. She begged him to continue, even though there were those in Canada who were criticizing him. She believed that if he resigned, he would be giving up the focus of his whole life. Fortunately, he listened to her and continued as a minister. Her main regret is that Sus did not have more time to concentrate on the academic side. He wanted to do more writing and commentary on translations of Japanese works, which she feels would have been of great value to Buddhism in Canada. On a personal level, Terrie always wanted to get proper training in English language, especially for vocabulary and grammar, but unfortunately, there were always too many competing demands on her time, and perhaps there are some regrets that she did not have time to pursue her own post graduate studies in children’s education.

She says that although she once thought that she had established “nothing” in her life, she now realizes how very grateful she is to have been able to support Sus and his efforts to build Jodo Shinshu in Calgary and in Canada. She is filled with appreciation for all the wonderful people who have come into her life, and she feels very fortunate.

And we, too, are very fortunate. The contributions that Terrie and Sus made to Jodo Shinshu are innumerable, and Terrie’s legacy continues across Canada with her family’s outsized role in Jodo Shinshu: Mari president of the Vernon Temple, Lester” forever” president of Calgary, Roland president of BTSA and working towards Tokudo, and Grant a much loved and respected minister.

With gratitude, we can all say a very heartfelt thank you to Terrie.

## NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST

Do you have a suggestion for the name for the newsletter?

If so, send it to  
[jsbtcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:jsbtcnewsletter@gmail.com)  
by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

There will be a prize for the person who suggests the winning name!

### ANNOUNCEMENT: SOME CHANGES AT THE JSBTC

At the JSBTC AGM in April 2018, the JSBTC requested temple volunteers to assist in two specific operations areas, donation acknowledgements and health benefits administration. We are pleased to announce that Phylliss Ohashi volunteered to handle JSBTC donation acknowledgements and Kari Natsuhara volunteered to manage Minister and temple staff benefits programs. We are grateful to Kari and Phylliss for extending their volunteering beyond their responsibilities at the Vernon Buddhist Temple.

During the summer, our Bookkeeper, Joanne Yuasa was accepted into a master's program at the University of Toronto. In August, Joanne moved to Toronto and has been doing our work there.

Please note that as a result of these changes, all operational queries, updates and cheques for Health Benefits should be directed to:

Kari Natsuhara  
295 Desert Cove  
Vernon, BC V1H 1Z1  
[kipnip17@gmail.com](mailto:kipnip17@gmail.com)

All other correspondence and cheques are to be directed to:  
Attn: Joanne Yuasa  
80 Acton Ave.,  
North York, ON, M3H 4H1  
[Jsbtcheadquarters@gmail.com](mailto:Jsbtcheadquarters@gmail.com)

JSBTC Correspondence that is received at the Vancouver Buddhist Temple 220 Jackson Avenue, Vancouver, B.C will be redirected as appropriate.

Escalation of operations issues may continue to be directed to [Greg.Chor@gmail.com](mailto:Greg.Chor@gmail.com) Treasurer.

Next issue of the Newsletter will look at the work of the Office of the Socho (Bishop) and the work of the Living Dharma Centre. We would also like to share special temple events, dates, anniversaries, etc. Please send us your Temple highlights and special dates, anniversaries, etc., with pictures.

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Do you have comments or suggestions about the newsletter? What would you like to see in the newsletter? Send your comments to [jsbtcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:jsbtcnewsletter@gmail.com). We would love to hear from you!

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