



法のともしび LIGHT OF THE DHARMA

NOTICE TO MEMBERS:

Due to current COVID-19, restrictions, all temple activities are held via Zoom Meetings.

IF YOU COME TO THE TEMPLE PLEASE WEAR A MASK!

REGULAR SCHEDULE

ENGLISH SERVICES
Sundays 10:00am

JAPANESE SERVICES
Sundays 11:30am

SEIZA MEDITATION
Thursdays 7:30pm

MORNING MEDITATION
Fridays 10:30am

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tuesdays @ 7pm
January 5 to Feb 23

SBT Winter Study Session
Sunday January 3

10:00am Shotsuki Service

Monday January 11

7:00pm SBT Board Meeting

Saturday January 16

10:00am Special Lecture
by Rev. Takashi Miyaji

Sunday January 17

10:00am Hoonko Service
(English and Japanese)

Your Donations are needed and appreciated!

Donations are the single largest source of income for the temple. Although there are no scheduled events, expenses do not stop. We want to be able to restart programs as soon as possible, so we thank you in advance for your contribution.

**FUJINKAI
TOBAN 3**

Contact: Hiroko Kawamoto
604-204-0219



New Year's Greeting

Happy New Year, everyone! At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my best regards to you all.

Throughout the last year, the world suffered from the pandemic of COVID-19, which brought tremendous hardship to many people, and we still are not able to see when normalcy would return to our world. On this occasion, I would like to offer my deepest condolences to those who fell victim to COVID-19 and express my sympathies to those who are currently undergoing treatment.

When social activities have been largely restricted as measures for preventing the spread of infection and protecting people's lives, many temples have been struggling for continuing their propagation. It concerns me that many people have been left isolated in the midst of hardship. 'Dependent origination' is a universal truth that Buddha Sakyamuni presented. This fundamental Buddhist principle expresses that every thing, matter, and phenomenon arises from various causes and conditions. None of us lives by ourselves. We are living being interconnected and mutually supported by one another.

Here in Japan, a new type of lifestyle called the 'new normal' has been introduced to protect people, their loved ones, and communities from infection. Considering the reality that we cannot even fathom when the pandemic will decline, it is important that everyone deeply reflects on the principle of Dependent Origination that represents the true state of the world.

Even though having been introduced to the truth by Buddha Sakyamuni, ordinary people like us are still not able to accept it as it is. Therefore, to guide us to cope with the suffering caused by our own ignorance, Shinran Shonin clarifies Amida Buddha's compassion that always embraces all of us. When the world is facing this unimaginable crisis, it is crucial that each of us experiences Amida Buddha's great compassion ourselves, and live each day to the utmost, having that joy and sensation in our hearts as the basis of our life.

It is my hope that your temples will continue serving as your spiritual home, and therefore, I sincerely ask for your understanding and cooperation to allow them to be so. With my heartfelt appreciation for each one of you, I would like to conclude my new year's greeting.

January 1, 2021

OHTANI Kojun
Monshu, Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

2021 New Year's Greeting from Office of the Bishop



On behalf of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, I wish to thank all of you for your support and understanding throughout 2020. As December brings the year to a close, we naturally find ourselves reflecting on the events of this year. Due to COVID-19, there have been so many changes and challenges. 2020 has certainly been full of many meaningful meetings and many difficult partings — new friendships, marriages, and births, and also the loss of people we love. (cont. P3)

New Year's Greeting

When the one thought-moment of joy arises, Nirvana is attained without severing blind passions. When ignorant and wise, even grave offenders and slanderers of the dharma, all alike turn about and enter shinjin, they are like waters, on entering the ocean, become one in taste with it.

(from The Hymn of True Shinjin and the Nembutsu)



Happy New Year!!

2020 was a year of great turmoil. It was a year in which the global Covid-19 pandemic affected all our lives either directly or indirectly. Hard to believe it was on December 31, 2019 that the Chinese government announced several dozen individuals had come down with a mysterious flu like illness in the province of Wuhan. From

there, the virus quickly spread and on January 25, 2020 the province of Wuhan was put on a strict lockdown situation. Unfortunately, by then the virus had spread out of the area and within the span of the year, we have seen the Covid-19 virus reach all corners of the earth. I just heard on the news that there was an outbreak at a research station in the Antarctic, which officially means that the virus has now spread to every continent on the planet earth. As terrible as the spread has been, it also has shown us that we are truly interconnected throughout the world.

Through the events occurring over the past year, I have noticed more individuals turning to spirituality for guidance. The new year provides an excellent opportunity for us to reflect on the interdependence of life. The air that we breathe, the water that we drink, the life that we receive to sustain us, all are connected, and all are one.

Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu, recognized this oneness through the working of Amida Buddha. The introductory passage for this article is from Shinran Shonin's "Shoshin Nembutsu Ge" or "The Hymn of True Shinjin and the Nembutsu". In it, he states that when we attain the one thought-moment of joy, we are grasped as we are without severing our blind passions. This one thought-moment of joy arises when we realize the oneness of all life that is expressed through Amida Buddha. Also, with the one thought-moment of joy, the thought of reciting the name, "Namo Amida Butsu" appears from within. This recitation of "Namo Amida Butsu" is an expression of the oneness between the self and Amida where "Namo" represents the self, and "Amida" represents the "Infinite Light" and "Infinite Life".

Just as the suffering in his life led Shinran Shonin to discover the Nembutsu path, the Covid-19 pandemic has provided us with the opportunity to reflect within and see the working of Amida Buddha. Later this month on the weekend of January 16th and 17th we will be observing the Hoonko service, honoring the life of Shinran Shonin. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, our services will be online; however, we are honored to have Rev. Takashi Miyaji from the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church join us on both Saturday and Sunday.

as our guest minister in sharing his appreciation of Shinran Shonin's Nembutsu teachings. Miyaji Sensei will be giving a public lecture on January 16th starting at 10:00 am and will be the guest minister for the Hoonko service to be held on the 17th at 10:00 am.

I hope you will join us to explore the Buddha Dharma together and to express our appreciation to Shinran Shonin. If you have not joined online before with the Zoom services, please contact me at rev.ikuta@steveston-temple.ca to receive an invitation to join the service.

In Gassho,
Rev. Grant Ikuta



Message from the President

The year 2020 started like any other year full of hope and looking forward to travel plans, celebrations and we expected to go about daily activities.

The Coronavirus changed everything in historic ways. It has caused suffering globally and personally in ways we could not imagine.

As you are aware, our Temple has not been immune. Like each of us, the Temple has had to adjust to the restrictions in dealing with the Pandemic. All Temple Services and in person programs and gatherings have been cancelled to keep the Covid 19 virus from spreading. Rev. Ikuta started online Zoom Services connecting as many as 90 plus people from across Canada and the USA. He has also started Buddhist study classes with over 30 attendees. All indicating our Jodo Shinshu Temple has responded to health directions and in doing so has become even stronger in our commitment to the Teachings of the Buddha.

While the Pandemic has brought untold misery, it has allowed us to reflect upon on our own personal lives. This reflection may cause us to examine our individual practice of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and allow Amida's Wisdom and Compassion to enter our lives.

Looking ahead to 2021, with vaccines becoming available, we hope to return to some of our daily activities. We look forward with anticipation to the completion of Wisteria Place and the renovations to our Temple. Above all, we realize the importance of Jodo Shinshu practice and it's importance to our lives.

We are grateful to have a community of people coming together to ensure that SBT continues caring for one another.

Happy New Year
In Gassho, Ted Akune
President, Steveston Buddhist Temple

Message from the Office

Happy New Year from the office staff members and welcome to 2021. We hope to see you soon again and we thank everyone for your continuous support.

(...Message from Bishop from P 1) I recently read an article in a Japanese newspaper, which reported on a survey taken on people's perception of happiness. In response to the question, "What gives you the greatest sense of happiness?", the number one answer was "to be healthy" and the number two answer was "to be able to do what one wishes." Certainly, it is the wish for all people to be healthy. However, in reality, no matter how much we wish for a healthy life, there are no guarantees in maintaining good health, and we do not know if we will ever be free from suffering ill health.

The famous Japanese poet and Buddhist monk, Kenko Yoshida (1283-1352) states in "Tsurezuregusa (Essays in Idleness, also known as the Harvest of Leisure)" that, "there are seven undesirable things seen in friends", and lists one as, "a strong person who has never been ill". He says that people who are healthy and who have not been sick are not well-suited to be friends. Why did he make such a statement?

In general, we learn to understand things through experience. To know the suffering of illness, we first learn the pain and hardship of illness when we fall ill ourselves. Similarly, it could be said that people having personally struggled with hardship and pain are better able to understand suffering and pain in others, and therefore, are kind and understanding. Those who lack that kindness and understanding are said to be not appropriate as friends.

For Shakyamuni Buddha, and other Masters, they taught the path to enlightenment, having the heart of sorrow through truly knowing the suffering and anxiety of people. It is important to understand Buddha's words, "Life is suffering", from this viewpoint, and not to confuse his teachings of old age, illness, and death as a pessimistic teaching based on a negative perspective. The underlying foundation of Buddha's teaching is based on a deep view of

the reality of life. This view is born from the heart of deep sorrow, and transformed through enlightenment, to become the heart of compassion helping all people with comfort and courage. Buddha's serene pose illustrates this.

The poet Akio Murakami who passed away in his twenties wrote,

*"Through illness I learned of something that was faster than light
Through illness I learned of something that was wider than the ocean
Through illness I learned of something that was deeper than the ocean..."*

Written while suffering an illness in which he could not move his body even slightly due to paralysis, it shows us that there is an important view to looking at life. The literary critic Shouichiro Kamei, who hails from Hokkaido like myself, has stated, "Anguish is the labour pain of humans to become reborn." There is no life without anguish, and people are able to understand themselves through their anguish. According to him, through anguish, people's eyes are opened to view life truly, resulting in the birth of a new human.

Shakyamuni Buddha makes clear the reality of humans in which we are drowning in the ocean of endless desire and sinking in the abyss of ignorance. "Life is suffering" are words of the Buddha, as one who understood the reality of himself, as he was. Through these words, I am now able to touch Buddha's deep wisdom and boundless compassion. How wondrous is the truth of enlightenment! The poet probably felt that 'wonder' and wrote those words. I think that to have "learned", is an expression of joy at having awakened to the unattainable Truth. Please continue to take good care of yourself. Be safe, be kind, and be mindful.!

In gassho,

Tatsuya Aoki, Bishop

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada

FUJINKAI NEWS

Hiroko Yoshihara



The extraordinary year of 2020 is coming to a close as this article is being written. When you read this, the new year of 2021 should be one of recovery. Despite the difficulties of 2020, Fujinkai was able to hold three garage sales: one before the gym was demolished and two in the fall were held outdoors in the parking lot. We also managed to squeeze in an apple pie making session in March and during the year more apple pies were made from the apples frozen and stored in the freezers. Fortunately, some revenue has been made.

Collecting used postage stamps and trimming them has been an ongoing activity. Lori North, member of Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple, is a steady source of stamped envelopes as she works for TV Times.

In addition, City of Richmond staff saves their envelopes for us. Any amount of used stamps are welcome from temple members and friends. This project is for the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temple Women's Federation. Proceeds from the sale of used stamps go an international charity.

Looking more into the future, the 17th World Women's Buddhist Convention will be held in Kyoto in 2023, possibly in the early summer. It is over two years from now, but as we all know, time goes by very quickly. Please give some thought to attending this awesome event.

Frozen Apple Pies for Sale

Large: \$9.00

Small: \$6.00

Japanese Groceries for Sale

Takuan \$4.00

Inari \$9.00

Miso \$6.00

Instant miso soup (12 packets) \$1.75

Glicco medium curry \$3.00

Mirin \$8.50

Low sodium shoyu \$7.00

Sencha \$6.00 and \$6.50

Sakura denbu / oboro price depends on size

Contact Hiroko Yoshihara at
604.277.6521 or hi.yosh@telus.net

DONATIONS

The Steveston Buddhist Temple sincerely appreciates and thanks the following for their generous donations: All donations received after Dec. 24th will be announced in the next newsletter. *Please write your full name with your address clearly on your donation envelope.

General donation: Alford Ryan, Anzai Junko, Berlinguette Jocelyn, Cavanaugh Genevra, Chow Suezona & Chow, Edwards Jamie, Flynn Robert & Sharon, Gallop Fred & Haruko, Hama Helen, Hirano Naoki, Inouye Sumi, Kondo Yuki, Koyata Jane, Kurita Yoshie, Maruno Joy Maya, Matsuo Corey, Matsuno Yoko, Mia Ezzo, Motomura Robert, Narukami Don & Chiyo, Niguma Kazuko, Oda Jennifer, Phillips Kim, Sakiyama Marilyn, Stevens Annette, Suzuki Kent, Takayama Kimiko, Turnbull Kaoru, Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple (\$3785)

Fujinkai General donation: Kawamoto Tobo & Hiroko

Eshinnisama Service (according to Fujinkai list): Ikuta June, Tomihiro Kazuko, Koyanagi Susie, Hamaura Masako, Akizuki Eiko, Akune Itoko, Chan Rob & Elsie, Doi Peter & Louise, Hamanishi Betty, Hamaura Misaye, Higo Kevin & Kay, Hirano Masami, Ikuta Teruko, Kariya Florence, Kawabata Mitsuyo, Kawamoto Hiroko, Murao Ken, Nishi Kayoko, Nishi Shizuko, Okabe Mary, Ryan Jeanne, Sakai Marge, Sakai Tomiko, Tasaka Chic, Tasaka R & J., Yoshihara Hiroko, Murao Dick (\$630)

JSBTC donation: Koyanagi Susie, Maede Toyoko, Mori Koji & Judith, Shiozaki Masako, Tomihiro Kazuko, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko (\$160)

Jodo-e Service: Akune Roy & Itoko, Hamaura Masako, Hamaura Misaye, Ikuta Kuni & June, Ikuta Makoto, Kakehi Tomoko, Kondo Kaoru, Maede Toyoko, Matsumura Laverne, Matsuno Seishi & Kisako, Mori Koji & Judith, Morizawa Chiyoko, Morizawa Sazare, Nakatsu Tsuyoshi & Chizuru, Niguma Kazuko, Nishi Kayoko, Suyama Eiji & Caroline, Suzuki Kent, Tani Kiyoshi & Mutsumi, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko, Ikuta Teruko, Kakehi Tomoko (\$1040)

Obon & Hatsubon Service: Kawamoto Tobo & Hiroko (\$40)

October Shotsuki: Nishikihama Erica, Dr. Tanaka Jim & Irene

November Shotsuki: Morimoto Anthony & Paula, Morishita Elmer & Sofia, Morishita Lori, Sakai Mitsuka, Sawada Jack, Tasaka Naomi (\$940)

December Shotsuki: Akune Roy & Itoko, Akune Ted & Rose, Doi Peter & Louise, Esson Karen, Hama Helen, Hamade Dennis, Hamade Naomi, Hamanishi Betty, Hamaura Masako, Hashimoto Junichi & Atsumi, Higo Kelvin & Kay, Ikuta Kuni & June, Kamikura Roger & Joyce, Kariya Florence, Kokubo Alice, Kondo Tamotsu & Chieko, Matsuo Ken & Akiko, McLean Jenny & Duncan, Mukai Diane, Mukai Don & Shioko, Mukai Kathleen, Nakano Alison, Niwatsukino Kyoko, Sakai Marge, Sakai Michael, Sakai Mitsuka, Sakai Mitts & Kay, Sakai Tracey, Sakata Hozumi, Sakata Marge, Sakata Sachiko, Sakiyama Butch & Marilyn, Sakiyama Noboru, Takahashi Dave & Kay, Teraguchi JC, Teraguchi Lorne, Yamanaka Sachiyo, Yamashita Setsuko, Yesaki Arthur, Yesaki Mitsuo, Yokota Carl, Yukawa Joe & Sally (\$1860)

Eitaikyo Service donation: Iwata Genevieve, Koyanagi Susie, Matsuno Seishi & Kisako, Sakai Marge, Sakata Hozumi, Tanaka Emiko, Tani Kiyoshi & Mutsumi, Tomihiro Kazuko (\$200)

In memory of the late:

25th memorial for the late mother Ume Niwatsukino: Koyanagi Susie, Tomihiro Kazuko

Mrs. Yoshiko Matsumoto: Miyazaki Takemi

Mrs. Eiko Kokubo: Hirano Masami & Chiyoko, Ikuta Kuni & June, Kawamoto Tobo & Hiroko, Maede Toyoko, Okabe Mary, Quan Toshiko, Dr. Tanaka Jim & Irene, SBTWA

Mr. Yoshiaki Tabata: Singh Jas & Clare, Tabata Setsuko & Family

Mr. Sunshine & Mrs. Fumie Sato: Ohori Fumiko

Mrs. Kikue Osaka: Yesaki Mae & Tad

Mr. Ben Yoshida: Takeuchi Toru & Naomi

Mr. Yoshio Hamanishi: Takeuchi Toru & Naomi, Tasaka Donald & Sharon

Mr. Toshio Murao: Takeuchi Toru & Naomi

Mr. Terry Sakai: Kawamoto Tobo & Hiroko, Tasaka Donald & Sharon

Mrs. Fusako Takeuchi: Irizawa Edith, Okabe Mary, SBTWA

Mr. Seiji Kawasaki: Okabe Mary

Mr. Harry & Mrs. Mae Osaka: Mizushima Tatsutoki & Karen

Mr. Duncan Gordon Max Bray: Japanese Dementia Support Association

Ms. Donna Teraguchi: Sakata Marge

Mr. Bob Hamaura: Kawamoto Tobo & Hiroko, Kitagawa Koichi

Mr. Mas Ogawa: Kitagawa Koichi

(\$1540)

JANUARY 2021 MEMORIAL SERVICE

(Please bring your "Homyo".)

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

FEBRUARY 2021 MEMORIAL SERVICE

(Please bring your "Homyo".)

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

Membership 2020: For those who have not paid their membership 2020 please call the office at your **earliest convenience**.

Your Donations are needed and appreciated!
Donations are the single largest source of
income for the temple, and allow us to create
our programs, which we hope you also can
enjoy, so we thank you for your contribution.



The Kane: Ringing in the New Year

Happy New Year and the Best of Health in 2021.

The past year has certainly been unprecedented with covid-19 throughout the world. As we have read and heard, the effect of the virus is indeed very grave and concerning such that so many have become seriously ill and so many lives have been lost.

Since March, 2020 when the virus was first announced, our temple service model has changed dramatically. Presently, our service attendance has become virtually nil after a few attendees in the spring and summer. Our services are now conducted via the Zoom platform which has been very successful through the tireless efforts and creativity of Rev. Grant. These zoom services have brought a new dimension to the transmission of the Buddha Dharma whereby we have Dharma followers from Hawaii, the Canadian provinces and the United States joining us. The addition of this new dimension has been a positive outcome such that perhaps it can be included when delivering our future services.

Of immediate impact, this pandemic has affected our Joya-e and Shusho-e services wherein these were successfully held virtually with no one in attendance.

Historically, it has been recorded that the Joya no Kane, Bell of the last Night, had its origin in Jetavana Vihara (Garden) in Sravasti, India. To mark this event, according to legend, a 50 ton bell was rung by the followers of Shakyamuni Buddha.

In Japan, since 1873, with the adoption of the Gregorian Calendar, the first day of January has become known as New Year's Day. It has been a tradition that at midnight on December 31st Buddhist temples, all over Japan, ring their bells 108 times. Sources state that the significance of this number are the 108 passions or sins that one possesses through the six senses of seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, touching and thinking. These senses are manifested through one's likes and dislikes, one's pleasurable and unpleasurable experiences and neither positive nor negative, past, present and future. Mathematically it is calculated: $6 \times 6 \times 3 = 108$. As it is for us, we are all possessed of these six senses leading to the 108 passions.

The "Joya no Kane", the Bell of the last Night, is a reminder of our own blind passions. Inasmuch as it brings us to our senses that it is our actions that have brought about our suffering, it also brings us to the awareness of the empowerment of Amida Buddha. The Buddha teaches us that there is a way to resolve the manifestations of our blind passions. It is his action asking us to listen to His Calling Voice. It is the Nembutsu. It is the repetition of the Buddha's name – Namo Amida Butsu. The Chief Abbot Emeritus, Zenmonshu Koshin Ohtani, of the Nishi-Hongwanji once stated, "when you become the person who senses the presence of Amida Buddha in your life, you will say the Nembutsu naturally and spontaneously. It is Amida calling you."

In Gassho,
Roy Akune

釣鐘（つりがね）： 新年の鐘つき
明けましておめでとうございます。皆様のご健康とご多幸をお慶び申し上げます。

昨年は世界中が新型コロナウイルスのために今まで経験したことがないほど大変な年でした。ウィスの影響は甚大で実に多くの人々が感染し、亡くなりました。2020年3月にウィルスのことが発表されてからお寺の法要のやり方がすっかり変わりました。春と夏は少し法要の参加者はいましたが、今は全くいません。その代わり今はグラント先生がコンピューターのズームを学びそれをいろいろと駆使して法要をやって下さっているで成功しています。このズームでの法要は仏法の教えを人々に届けるのに新しい局面を開いてくれました。場所に制限がありませんので、仏法を聞きたい方たちはハワイから、カナダの別の州から、またアメリカ本土からも参加しています。この新しいやり方は将来もずっと続けるかも知れません。

当面の影響としては、このパンデミックのため除夜会と修正会はコンピューター上で行われ、お寺には誰も参加できませんでした。

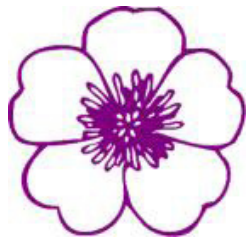
除夜の鐘は歴史的にはインドのスラヴァスティにあるジェタヴァナ・ヴィハラという庭園で始まったという記録があります。言い伝えでは、この行事を記念するためお釈迦様の信者たちが50トンの鐘を鳴らしたそうです。

日本では1873年に西暦を採用してから1月1日を元旦とすることになりました。日本の習わしでは、12月31日の真夜中に日本中のお寺が釣鐘を108回鳴らします。108という数字は人は皆、見る、聞く、匂い、かぐ、味わう、触る、考える、という六感を通じて108の欲望や罪を持っていると言われていたところからきています。これらの感覚は人の好き嫌い、快不快の経験からきており、良くも悪くもなく、過去、現在、未来でもありません。数学的には $6 \times 6 \times 3 = 108$ です。私たちは皆この六感により108の欲望に繋がっているのです。

除夜の鐘は私たちのこの欲望に気づかせてくれます。私たちの行いが私たちの苦しみの原因になることを思い出させてくれると同様に、阿弥陀様のお力に目覚めさせてくれます。仏さまは私たちの欲望が出るのを解決する道を教えてください。それは仏様に耳を傾けることです。それはお念仏です。仏様のお名前、南無阿弥陀仏を繰り返すことです。西本願寺の前門主大谷光真様が、「人は阿弥陀様の存在を感じられた時、自然にお念仏が唱えられる、それは阿弥陀様のお力です」とおっしゃっていました。

合掌
阿久根ロイ

婦人会からのお知らせ 吉原ヒロコ



この記事を書いている今、異常だった2020年も終わりに近づいています。この記事を読む2021年初頭にはいくらか状況が回復しているでしょう。2020年は大変な年でしたが、婦人会はセールを3回する事が出来ました。ジムが壊される前に1回、秋には駐車場で2回行いました。3月にはアップルパイ作りも行い、冷凍したアップルで年間を通してパイをもっと作りました。お陰様でいくらか収入もありました。使用済みの切手収集とそれらをトリムする仕事はずっと続いています。フレーザーバレー仏教会のノース・ローリーさんはTV Timesに勤めていらっしゃるの切手の付いた封筒をいつも取っておいて下さい。さらに、リッチモンド市の職員も私たちのために封筒をためておいて下さい。切手の多少は関係ありませんので、お寺の会員や会友の方達もご協力下さいようお願いいたします。これは浄土真宗仏教婦人会のためのプロジェクトで、使用済み切手を売った利益は国際慈善団体に寄付します。もっと先のことですが、第17回世界仏教婦人会大会が2023年の多分初夏に京都であります。まだ2年先ですが、ご存じのように時はあっという間に過ぎてしまします。この素晴らしい会議に参加する事も今のうちに考えてみてください。



会長挨拶

2020年は他の年と同じ様に希望に満ち、旅行やお祝い等を楽しみにし、日々の計画を実行するはずでした。でも、コロナウィルスが今まででなかったような変化をもたらし、想像も出来ないほどの苦痛を世界中に、また個人にもたらしました。ご存じのようにお寺も影響を受けました。このパンデミックに対処するため、個人と同様にお寺も制約に慣れる必要がありました。COVID-19の感染拡大を防ぐためにお寺での法要や集会は全て中止になりました。生田先生はオンラインのズームで毎日曜の法要を行い、カナダとアメリカから90人以上が参加しています。先生はまた仏教講座を同様にズームで行っており、30人以上が参加しています。これらは皆、私達の浄土真宗のお寺が政府の健康安全規則に従いながらも仏教のお教えの実践に、より積極的になっている事を示しています。パンデミックは大変な苦痛をもたらしましたが、自分自身のことを考える機会も与えてくれました。これは私達が浄土真宗の教えの実践について、また阿弥陀様の知恵と慈悲が私たちの人生にどのように関係しているかを考える機会にもなるでしょう。2021年はワクチンの接種も受けられるようになり、いくらか以前の生活に戻れるという希望も見えてきました。また、ウィステリアプレースの建設とお寺の改築の完成を期待しています。とりわけ、浄土真宗の実践の重要さと、それが私たちの人生にもたらす重要性に気づかれます。お寺の皆様が集い、互いに気遣い、温かい集まりとして続いていることに感謝しています。新年おめでとうございます。合掌 阿久根テッド、会長、スティーブストン仏教会

あけまして、南無阿弥陀仏



法のともしび

新年あけましておめでとうございます。新しい年の初めにあたり、ご挨拶申し上げます。昨年始まり、コロナウィルスパンデミックによる深刻な状況は今も世界各国で続いております。しかし、去年の年末にウィルス対策のワクチンが完成し、予防接種が始まり、2021年はパンデミックが収まる年になると世界中の人々が希望を抱いているのではないかと思います。2020年は確かに大変な一年でしたが、必ずしも悪いことばかりではありませんでした。暮れには、Thich Nhat Hanh (ベトナム仏教の僧侶) 著作の「Heart of the Buddha's Teaching」と言う本を基に勉強会をオンラインで始めました。本の出だしにHanh先生が「お釈迦様は苦しみがあからこそ悟りと言う



ものがある」と述べています。お釈迦様の最初の教えは四諦八正道と言い、その一番には「苦諦」と言う真理を伝えています。「苦諦」は人生の苦しみの認識が悟りへの道のりの第一歩であることを示しております。確かに2020年を振り返ってみるとパンデミックによる不安から心のゆとりを求める人が増加しているように思います。三月から続けているオンライン日曜礼拝にはバンクーバー近辺だけではなく、ハワイやノバスコシアなど遠方の方も参拝されていることを考えると本当に皆様は導きを求めているように思われます。私も一緒に聞法をすることにより多くの方々とつながっていることを実感しております。そして、このつながりはすべてお念仏のはたらきによるものだと思っています。それは、教えがあるからこそ、皆様がオンラインで参拝しているということです。2021年はどんな年なるか分かりませんが、先のことを考えずに今は多くの皆様と一緒に阿弥陀様の慈悲に照らされていることを喜んでいきます。これからも皆様と一緒に阿弥陀様のみ教えをいただき、ともにお念仏の日々を過ごす一年でありますように念じ申し上げます。

合掌
生田グラント

オフィスからの新年のご挨拶

明けましておめでとうございます。皆様良いお年をお迎えできましたでしょうか。一日でも早く皆様とお会いできることを心から期待し、楽しみにしております。どうぞ、スタッフ一同本年度も宜しく願い申し上げます。

2021 年頭の辞



旧年中は大変お世話になりました。カナダ開教区を代表して、謹んで御礼と新春のお慶び申し上げます。BC州オカナガン教区に駐在頂いた宮川泰弘先生が2021年1月1日にご引退されます。宮川先生は35年間、カナダ各地にて法義の伝道に尽くされました。宮川先生の長年の

ご功績とご尽力に厚く御礼申し上げます。カナダ各地において、新型コロナウイルスの拡散抑制における制限の生活が続きます。ウィルスは身体だけではなく、「心」にも大きく影響していることを感じる日々です。マスクをする・しない、ソーシャルディスタンスを守る・守らない、ニュースで映し出される毎日の争い・憎しみの姿です。

海外の仏教青年を対象とした研修会（YBICSE）が二年に一度西本願寺が主催して行われます。その研修中に、広島市の平和公園と原爆資料博物館を訪れます。私が引率した際に、資料館にあった広島市の原爆の式典で中学生の女の子が読んだ弔辞です。

恨みからは、恨みしか生まれない。私たちは、この悲しみを、受けた傷を、相手にぶつけることで解決しようとしてはならない。この子の祖父母は、原爆症で亡くなったそうですがなかなか言えない言葉だとも思います。

今から約900年前にも同じようなことを言われていた人がいました。親鸞聖人の師でもある、法然上人（ほうねんしょうにん）のお父様です。法然上人の父は、美作国（みまさかのくに・今の岡山県）の兵を率いて領内の治安を守る役人でした。しかし、保延7年（1141）の春、かねてから仲が悪かった、この地の支配者の夜討ちに遭い、あえない最後を遂げたのです。武士たるもの、戦場で果てるならばいざ知らず、寝込みを襲われたのでは、痛恨の極みです。この時、法然上人は数え9才でした。幸いにも、物陰に隠れて難を逃れ、賊が去ってから瀕死の父の元へ駆け寄り、「私が必ず、父上の恨みをはらしてみせます」と敵討ちを誓ったのです。

しかし、父は、苦しい息の中から、こう言いました。「決して犯人を恨んではならない。私が非業の死を遂げるのは、前世からの種まきの結果であり、因果応報（人の行いの善悪に応じて、必ずその報いが現れること）なのだ。もし、そなたが敵討ちをすれば、相手の子供が、またそなたを敵と狙うだろう。敵討ちが幾世代にも続いていく。愚かなことだ。父のことを思ってくれるなら、出家して自ら仏法を求めてくれ」この父の遺言に従って、法然上人は出家をしました。

TVジャパンでも放映されたドラマ「半沢直樹」の「やられたらやり返す。倍返しだ!」という言葉が記憶に新しいです。ののしられれば、ののしり返し、怒りには怒りで報い、打てば打ち返す。だが、それが悲劇のはじまりなのですね。果てしのない報復の連鎖がはじまります。自分の運命の全ては、過去自分のまいた種まきの結果と知らされれば今の現状を冷静にみて、光に向かって幸せのタネを蒔いていけるのではないのでしょうか。願わくば、お互いに幸せになれる道を進みたいものです。たとえ一時は苦しくとも。

合掌
カナダ開教区
総長 青木龍也

年頭の辞



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新しい年のはじめにあたり、ご挨拶申し上げます。

昨年は新型コロナウイルス感染症（COVID 19）が世界的に大流行し、多くの方が犠牲となりましたが、いまだその収束が見通せません。ここに、新型コロナウイルス感染症に

よりお亡くなりになられた方々に謹んで哀悼の意を表しますとともに、罹患されている皆さまに心よりお見舞い申し上げます。

感染の拡大を止め、私たちの命を守るためにさまざまな社会活動が制限される中、寺院活動も自由に行えない状況となりました。このような中で悩みや苦しみを抱えている方、孤独な状況に置かれている方も多くおられるのではないかと思います。

仏教を説かれたお釈迦様は、「物事は必ず何らかの原因があり条件があって生じ、存在している」という存在に関する普遍的な原理を「縁起」として示されました。私たちは、自分一人ですべての生きているものではありません。周りのすべての方々とつながりの中、お互いに支え合って生活しています。日本では、自分や周りの方、そして地域を感染拡大から守るために「新しい生活様式」の実践が呼びかけられています。新型コロナウイルス感染症が終息しない現状にあって、この世界のありのままの姿である「縁起」の道理を深く心に留めたいと思います。

親鸞聖人は、お釈迦様の説かれたこの世界の真理をそのままに受け入れることができずに悩み苦しむ私たちに、阿弥陀さまのおはたらきが届いていると明らかにされました。思ってもみなかった出来事に見舞われている世界ですが、阿弥陀さまのおはたらきを聞き、それを依りどころとして日々の生活を過ごしてまいりましょう。これからもお寺が皆さまの心の支えとなりますよう、お寺の活動にご理解とご協力を頂きますことをお願い申し上げます、年頭のご挨拶といたします。

2021年1月1日

浄土真宗本願寺派
門主 大谷光淳



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Join the Sangha and spread the Dharma



As many of you are not stopping by the temple, here are a few photos of the changes that are happening to the outside of the Temple. The addition has a roof and windows, the new office is taking shape, and re-roofing is mostly complete. Much work remains to be done on the inside!



Wisteria is also coming along nicely. Siding is going up and the parking lot, access and lighting is taking shape. It will be wonderful to see the completed building when the Cherry blossoms are out!