



# 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 10:00am

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Tuesdays @ 7pm

January 5 to Feb 23

SBT Winter Study Session

Sunday February 7

10:00am Shotsuki Service

11:30am Japanese Service

Monday February 9

7:00pm SBT Board Meeting

Sunday February 14

10:00am Nirvana Service

11:30am Japanese

Sunday February 28 1pm

SBT Annual General Meeting

**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

## Yes, there is light at the end of the Tunnel

Wow!! Are we really already going into February of 2021? Time, as always, seems to be flying right by. Despite the fact that we are still in a lock down situation due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, for some reason I feel like I'm busier than ever. I will get to this later in my article, but I'd like to begin by sharing a story that I shared during our January 10th Sunday Service. It is a story which I translated from the "Buddhist Sacred Tales" written by Prof. Daigaku Hanaoka, who wrote many Buddhist Tales based on the sutras of the Buddha. This particular story is entitled the Golden Caldron and it goes like this.

### Golden Calderon

Once upon a time, there was a temple that was known for helping people in need. Once a week they would cook rice from a special golden caldron and people would come from afar to receive this rice. It was said the rice had special powers to help heal the wounds of the heart. One day as the monks were portioning out the rice, there was a young man in line who was thinking of things other than receiving his ration of rice. You see, this young man was a robber and he had thoughts on stealing the famous Golden Caldron. Things are not always as they seem. As he waited in line with the others, he studied the temple and realized there were many monks about and that it would be quite difficult to steal the caldron. Having received his rice, he took to a corner of the temple and sat down to eat his food. All the while looking over the temple and thinking of how he could get his hands on the Caldron. He realized there were too many people on this day.

Several weeks went by without any sight of the young man. Now at this temple on the first day of the month, they would open their gates to receive new candidates to enter the temple as novice monks. Well, lo and behold, amongst the other young candidates, there was the young robber with his head cleanly shaved. He had come up with a plan of entering the temple as a monk and gaining the trust of the other monks so that he could get close enough to steal the Golden Caldron. Things are not always as they seem.

Now that he had entered the temple, he had to act like the other monks to slowly gain the trust of the senior monks. This meant that he had to practice and learn with the other novice monks. It meant that he had to get up at the crack of dawn to begin the day by cleaning the temple grounds which was followed by the morning service and breakfast with the others. This was followed by lessons on the teachings and more services in the afternoon. By the end of the day he was so exhausted that he couldn't think about stealing the Caldron. Things are not always as they seem. The young robber kept up with this pace for several weeks and slowly there was a change that started to come over him. The more he took part in the activities, the more he began to have doubts about stealing the Caldron. He started feeling guilty about his thoughts and finally on the last day of the month when the monks gathered in the Great Hall, he stood in front of all the other monks and said in a very remorseful voice. "Great Master and fellow monks. I am not who you think I am. I came here to steal the Golden Caldron and I don't deserve to be sharing the Dharma amongst all of you. (Continued on P.2)



## FUJINKAI NEWS

Hiroko Yoshihara



Buddhist Temples of Canada's Women proposed a project which involves sending cards to those who may be isolated during these times.

After consulting with our Toban leaders and some members, Steveston Fujinkai has agreed that this would be a positive act. Then we received approval from the temple board to obtain the temple membership list after some discussion about privacy. A list of names with birth years were received.

As there are around 238 members in total, we had to set some limits. The birth year of 1939 was set to be the cut off (not included will be several very active members...we hope that you will not be disappointed!). Also the list had two pages of names with no birth year so many members still may be missed. Goal is to send these cards off by Valentine's Day.

During this "down time", we hope that you are keeping healthy and safe and that you are maintaining social contacts.

## Japanese Groceries for Sale

As in person monthly Shotsuki services are on hold, we are cutting back on orders.

The following items are still available.

- Takuan \$4.00
- Age/Inari \$9.50
- Miso (1kg) \$6.00
- Handy miso soup (12 packets) \$1.75
- Ocha Pack \$1.75
- Anko (2kg) \$7.50
- Mirin (Small) \$8.50
- Low sodium shoyu \$7.50
- Senbei:
- Gomasuki \$4.25
- Teriyaki \$4.25
- Sakura Arare \$5

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



## Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Steveston Buddhist Temple will be holding its Annual General Meeting

**Sunday, February 28th**  
**starting at 1:00 pm.**

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the meeting will be conducted virtually using the Zoom platform. If you wish to participate in the meeting, please contact either the office or Rev. Ikuta to register to receive an invitation for the meeting.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding at this difficult time.

In Gassho,  
Steveston Buddhist Temple  
Board of Directors



## Temple Office- Keiko Go

A thousand paper cranes are often given to a person who is seriously ill to wish for their recovery. It is also a symbol of hope and healing during challenging times.

We are facing a very challenging time due to Covid 19. I have asked several temple members and friends who would like to make cranes from origami or wrapping paper (15cmX15cm) so we can donate them to our local hospitals and senior facilities. This is to encourage Covid 19 patients but also to give hope and thank all the doctors, nurses, medical staff and care givers who are committed to do their work day and night taking risks for us.

I have now more than 1000 cranes however, I will still continue to collect paper cranes until Feb. 15th. Currently, I am threading each crane at home. The temple has been closed so if you would like to support, please make sure you contact the office first.

Your heartwarming support is much appreciated.

## Looking for Volunteers

With the Temple renovations moving right along, the temple has created a couple of new committees to help with some plans that the temple board of directors have passed at our meetings. The two committees are:

1. Tree Dedication Committee: As part of the landscaping of the temple grounds, the temple would like to offer the opportunity for families to help plant some of the trees that will be planted on the temple grounds to honor the memory of their loved ones. Pending the Covid-19 restrictions, we would like to hold a tree planting and dedication ceremony sometime in the late spring or early summer.

2. Pet Memorial Garden Committee: Another new initiative that we are looking at is the creation of a Pet Memorial Garden where people could come and spread the ashes of pets who have passed away. We would like to create a special garden by sometime in the early summer in time for a pet memorial service which we would like to hold in the fall.

If either of these committees interest you, we would love to have you join us in the committees. Please contact either Bud Sakamoto or Rev. Grant Ikuta to let them know if you are able to help us out. This is a wonderful opportunity to give back to the temple in a limited capacity as the committees will be decommissioned once the tasks have been completed.

(From P1)

*I am ready to receive my punishment and will gather my things and leave the temple.” The Grand Master Monk gently smiled and said, “There is no need for you to leave. The young man who came into the temple to steal the caldron is not here with us, all we have is the novice monk Shao Shin, who has completed his practice on having the Right View. Things are not always as they seem.”*

As we deal with the hardships of the Pandemic, there have also been some wonderful encounters of kindness and humanity that have been witnessed specifically because of the difficult times we are in. Starting last March, we have been holding ongoing activities online. When I began holding services online, I had originally thought it was a service that I would be providing just for our local members. What I didn't realize is that because it is online, it freed up the limitations of who could participate in the services. To my great surprise, we have people joining in from all across Canada as well as the States. There is a deep sense of Sangha that I feel thanks to the many individuals who have been participating online. As a direct result of such a great tragedy, a new form of Sangha (community) is beginning to blossom. Things are indeed, not always as they seem.

In deep gratitude,  
Namo Amida Butsu,  
Grant Ikuta

### FEBRUARY 2021 MEMORIAL SERVICE (Please bring your “Homyo”.)

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

### MARCH 2021 MEMORIAL SERVICE (Please bring your “Homyo”.)

Akizuki, Tom Fumitaka	Hiroshi	Lee, William	Nakano, Chitose	Omura, Yukiko	Yamamoto, John
Amadatsu, Tsunemori	Handa, Noriyuki	Maede, Yoneharu	Nakata, Masayo	Sato, Rex Hiroyuki	Yamamoto, Nuiko
Atagi, Kaya	Hashimoto, Masaaki	Maeno, Hajime	Nakata, Minosuke	Sakamoto, Aiko	Yamanaka, Takao
Baker, Alice	Hori, Masami	Matsumura, Seitaro	Nakata, Tokiko	Sakamoto, Makoto	Yoshida, Kazuo
Domae, Toyokazu	Horikoshi, Taro	Morishita, Shigeo	Nakatsuru, Satoru	Sakamoto, Roy	Yoshida, Yoshio
Domai, Hisae	Inouye, Susumu	Mukai, Teruo	Niguma, Toshio	Sameshima, Toshio	
Furukawa, Jun	Kakehi, Makoto	Murakami, Asamatsu	Nishi, Masao	Shirakawa, Hatsune	
Hamade, Lorne	Kariya, Sonoye	Murao, Kimiyo	Nishi, Takeshi Bill	Shiyoji, Dennis	
Hamakawa, Yukiko	Kitagawa, Tadao Tad	Murao, Yoshiyuki	Nishihama, Mankichi	Suzuki, Shigeo	
Hamanishi, Hiroichi	Kobayashi, Harue	Murao, Nagako	Ogawa, Tsurue	Takasaki, Toshiko	
Hamanishi, Kazumi	Koyanagi, Tadatashi	Nagata, Kazuo	Ogawa, Masaharu	Tasaka, Arizo	
Hamaura, Robert	Kurahashi, Tomiko	Nagata, Toshiko	Ojiro, Anthony Kusuo	Wakayama, Tamio	
	Kurahashi, Yoneji	Naka, Satsue	Omae, Kinuyo	Yamamoto, Hajime	



## DHARMA LIGHT

### Donations

The Steveston Buddhist Temple sincerely appreciates and thanks the following for their generous donations: All donations received after Jan. 22nd will be announced in the next newsletter. **\*Please note that this is the due date of the newsletter (not the end of the month). Please also don't forget to write which month of Shotsuki donation with your full name and address on the donation envelope. Thank you.**

ニュースレターの締切日以内に受け取り入金されたその月の御寄付金は全て翌月のニュースレターに一括でお知らせ致します。ご了承下さいませ。尚、祥月御懇志袋上に差出人のお名前、ご住所の他どの月の祥月御懇志もお忘れなく記載して下さいませ。有難うございました。

**Naijin Flower donation:** Nishi Kayoko

**General donation:** Akune Robert, Cavanaugh Genevra, Chow Nobu, Crofton Denise, Ikuta Makoto, Matsuno Yuki, Murao Mary, Nakatsuru Sherry, Nomura Schwab Kimiko, Oda Jennifer, Oshiro May, Sakai Sharon, Sameshima Miles, Yamada Haruo (\$1555)

**January Shotsuki:** Akune Roy & Itoko, Akune Ted & Rose, Butler Linda, Domai Kiyo, Esson Karen, Go Keiko, Guy Garry & Rosa, Hamada Satoshi, Hamaura Misaye, Hodder Robert & Evelyn, Iwata Genevieve, John Fred & Annie, Katai Ed & Kay, Kawaguchi Kiyoe, Kemp Kevin & Norine, Kimura George, Kimura Sueko, King Hiroko, Kokubo Alice, Kuramoto Isao & Ina, Kuriyama Paul, Lum George & Hitomi, Matsuo Ken, Mizushima Karen, Morimoto Anthony & Paula, Morimoto John, Mukai Dianne, Mukai Henry & Kathleen, Mukai Tom, Murao Mary, Murao Ray, Nakano Alison, Nishi Julie, Nishi Susan, Nishi Eric & Melissa, Nishi Kayoko, Niwatsukino Yumi, Niwatsukino Kyoko, Nomura Mark&Chris, Nomura Dan, Nomura Rejto Cathy, Obayashi Harry&Joanne, O'Brian Michael&Audrey, Pasqualetto Mario, Quan Toshiko, Ryan Larry&Jeanne, Sakiyama N., Sameshima M&L, Sameshima Raymond&Famey, Sameshima Teresa, Sameshima Yoshiko, Sano Masayoshi, Sato Helen, Sin Steve&Phyllis, Tabata Tosh&Mieko, Takasaki C., Takeuchi Ken&Sachiko, Tanaka Mel, Tasaka Kaz&Chic, Tasaka Rick&Naomi, Tipple Chris&Pat, Yamanaka Sachiyo, Yesaki Arthur, Yesaki Tom, Okabe Mary (\$3010)

**December Shotsuki:** Kuramoto Isao & Ina, Nishikihama Teruko, Teraguchi-Charney Irene, Yokota Amy

**November Shotsuki:** Kuramoto Isao & Ina, Teraguchi-Charney Irene (\$539.22)

**Jodo-e Service:** Akizuki Eiko, Hashimoto Junichi&Atsumi, Harada Jack, Iwata Genevieve, Koyanagi Susie, Nitta Ayako, Tanaka Emiko, Tomihiro Kazuko (\$200)

**Shusho-e Service:** Akune Roy&Itoko, Ikuta Teruko, Obayashi Harry&Joanne (\$230)

**In memory of the late:**

**Mr. Mas Ogawa:** Kitagawa Koichi

**Mrs. Eiko Kokubo:** Izumi Basil&Etsuko, Akizuki Eiko

**Mr. Terry Sakai:** Thaler Carol-lyn

**Mr. Toshio Murao:** Thaler Carol-lyn

**Mr. Herb Nakashima:** Okabe Mary

**Mr. Yasuo Nakano:** Nakano Sheila (\$1320)

**\*\*We apologize to Mr. Koichi Kitagawa and Mr. Mas Kitagawa for making an error in the donation column in the last newsletter.**

**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.**



## Looking for Mochi Machine

I have a co-worker who expressed interest in owning a Mochi Machine. I know at one point there were extra machines at the temple, and some were sold at Garage Sales.

Should you have one sitting unused in your Garage or Basement, let me know and I would be happy to pick it up and gift it to someone who would enjoy using it.

Thanks

Rainer (Editor)

[events@steveston-temple.ca](mailto:events@steveston-temple.ca)



Feb 15th is Nirvana Day

## 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。

西 ヒトシ様	2020年12月26日 寂	84歳
手塚 靖子様	2021年 1月14日 寂	74歳
中野 三七子様	2021年 1月18日 寂	91歳



## OBITUARY



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

Hitoshi Nishi	December 26, 2020	84 Years Old
Yasuko Tezuka	January 14, 2021	74 Years Old
Minako Nakano	January 18, 2021	91 Years Old

## Spirit of Mottainai

When I was a child my mother often reminded me that leaving food on my plate was Mottainai. This was particularly the case when I left a “gohan tsubu”, a grain of rice in my bowl. I was told not to be wasteful; I was told that the rice is the lifeblood of many people. Looking back to those early childhood days, I did not realize the importance of mottainai. My understanding of mottainai was based on wastefulness. I did not realize there was another aspect to it other than waste.

Mottainai is a common word in Japan and there are many who have become familiar with this word. Dr. Wangari Maathai, a Kenyan, a well-known environmentalist and 2004 Nobel Peace Prize recipient was first introduced to mottainai while visiting Japan in 2005. After realizing the significance of this word, she became an enthusiastic proponent of its philosophy. At a United Nations Summit on Climate change in 2009, her central theme was on mottainai and the 3R's of environmentalism: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and the 4th R: Respect (for all things) was added after her visit to Japan. Her efforts gained world-wide attention.

Consistent with the efforts of Dr. Maathai, the Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) a corporation very well known for their philanthropic contribution to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in North America and Japan, designed and manufactured reusable bags, the photo of which is attached to this article. They have under-written several Buddhist books, one of which is The Teaching of Buddha found in many of the well-known hotels and recently circulated, Learning the Wisdom of Enlightenment. Their design highlights the importance of mottainai throughout the world with the focus on the words, Respect, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

Mottainai has its origin in Buddhism. The stem Mottai conveys an “air of sanctity or importance; this is something to be revered”. And, the suffix, Nai, conveys the meaning “the lack of”. When the two are combined, the meaning becomes “the receiving of something superior and highly revered is far greater than I deserve”. I am unworthy of this; yet it is given to me. We often hear of the catch phrase, “I am not worthy of this”. The meaning of Mottainai conveys the feeling of humbleness and gratefulness. This attitude is deeply rooted culturally in the hearts of all Buddhists. Very recently, I envisaged my 102 year old mother-in-law uttered these words, “Mottainai, Arigato”, on receiving her Covid vaccine. This is mottainai in the sincerest way.

The Mottainai meaning goes beyond the grain of rice left in my bowl.

In Gassho,  
Roy Akune

## A Path Through A Troubled World

The year 2021 has started with many uncertainties for everyone due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic.

In my case, the online classes at Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin (an affiliated education institute of our mother temple, Nishi Hongwanji) returned to in-class learning last September, since the Covid-19 situation seemed to be getting better. This gave students a more efficient environment for studying and practice. Especially for a wide variety of sutra chanting and ritual practices, the students could chant while they performed a set of smooth movements that could never have happened if they were just sitting and getting lessons on a computer screen.

As the situation started to get back to normal, I tried to keep busy not only at school but also outside so I could maximize my experience during my stay in Japan. After much hard study and practice, I got a Junsan qualification from our mother temple, Nishi Hongwanji. It certifies that the holder's chanting and ritual proficiency has met the specific standards of a service priest who may participate and perform in special services led by Gomonsu, the spiritual head of our denomination. To get this qualification, one has to pass both a written and practical test.

From last November, Jodo Shin temples started holding Hoonko, memorial services for the founder, Shinran Shonin; the most important observance of the year in our tradition. I attended a couple of Hoonko services at nearby temples as a service priest and that made me even busier.

Then, the week-long Hoonko service at our mother temple was held from Jan. 9th to 16th of this year. During that period, many services were held at the mother temple and I joined three of those services as a service priest. Usually there is a large audience, but the number was limited this year due to the virus protection guidelines. In the latter part of Hoonko week, the services were held with no audience due to government's declaration of a state of emergency in Kyoto and the surrounding region.

Everything went back to online again. So did the last part of the classes, and the final exams in February will be switched to essay assignments.

There is one more thing that keeps me busy: learning a traditional Japanese musical instrument called Sho, a type of bamboo flute that is used for special occasions at some Jodo Shinshu services. I was not able to learn initially since it was cancelled as an elective class at the school. After the first wave of the COVID-19 passed last summer, I luckily met a professional musician who played Sho and provided private lessons. I'm now learning it slowly but the lessons happen occasionally and my time left here is limited. I don't know how much more I can learn before leaving Japan, but I will try my best.

My study in Kyoto will finish when I attend a Kyoshi certification training course in March, which is one of the requirements for being a minister in Canada.

My brain is occupied with so many things during these difficult times, and yet I can't help but acknowledge that all of this has only been possible because of the support from the people around me and, of course, with the compassion of Amida Buddha who shows the path through the troubled world to the enlightenment. Without your tremendous support, I would not be able to succeed my studies at all. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for all of you.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

In Gassho, Naoki Hirano





## 「もったいない」の精神

## 困難な時代をつらぬく一本の道

私が子供の頃、母がお皿に食べ物を残すのは「もったいない」、とよく言っていました。ご飯粒をご飯茶碗につけたままにしておくは必ず言われました。ご飯は人が生きていくのに大切なものだから無駄にしてはいけない、と言われました。まだ小さかったその頃の私には「もったいない」の重要な意味が分かっていませんでした。「もったいない」には無駄以外の他の意味がある事に私は気づきませんでした。

「もったいない」は日本ではよく使われる言葉ですが、日本人以外の人にもこの言葉が知られるようになりしました。自然環境保護者として有名なケニア人で2004年にノーベル平和賞を受賞したマーサイ・ワンガリ博士は2005年に日本を訪問した際、初めて「もったいない」という言葉に接しました。この言葉の意味の重要さに気づいた彼女は「もったいない」の考えを積極的に世界に広めました。国連気候変動サミット2009で、「もったいない」の精神と自然環境保護を主題にした演説をし、3R's: Reduce(ごみを減らす)、Reuse(再使用)、Recycle(再生利用)、それに日本訪問後彼女が第4として付け足した Respect(全ての物に対して)と共にそれらの重要性を提唱し、世界中の注目を浴びました。

マーサイ博士の努力と軌を一にして、北米と日本の浄土真宗に貢献している慈善団体の仏教伝道協会(BDK)も再使用可能なバッグを作りました。デザインは「もったいない」の精神が世界中で大事である事を示すためにRespect, Reduce, Reuse, Recycleが中心になっています。添付の写真をご覧ください。なお、同協会は仏教関係の本も出版し、The Teaching of Buddhaは有名なホテルの部屋に置いてあり、最近ではLearning The Wisdom of Enlightenmentも配布されています。

「もったいない」の語源は仏教にあります。「もったいない」は重要なもの、崇めるべきものを意味し、「なるい」はそれがいいことです。この二つが一緒になると、「私のような者がそのような大事な物を頂く価値はありません」となります。私はそれにふさわしくはないが、それを頂いたという、謙虚さと感謝を表しています。この姿勢は全ての仏教徒の心の中にある文化的な拠り所です。ごく最近、私の102歳になる義母がCOVIDのワクチンを注射してもらった時には「もったいない、ありがとう」と言ったことでした。心の底から出た「もったいない」です。「もったいない」の意味はご飯茶碗に残されたご飯粒だけのことではありません。

「もったいない」の語源は仏教にあります。「もったいない」は重要なもの、崇めるべきものを意味し、「なるい」はそれがいいことです。この二つが一緒になると、「私のような者がそのような大事な物を頂く価値はありません」となります。私はそれにふさわしくはないが、それを頂いたという、謙虚さと感謝を表しています。この姿勢は全ての仏教徒の心の中にある文化的な拠り所です。ごく最近、私の102歳になる義母がCOVIDのワクチンを注射してもらった時には「もったいない、ありがとう」と言ったことでした。心の底から出た「もったいない」です。「もったいない」の意味はご飯茶碗に残されたご飯粒だけのことではありません。

合掌  
阿久根ロイ



2021年は、全ての人にとって大変な幕開けとなりました。

私が学んでいる中央仏教学院では、オンラインだった授業は昨年9月の後期からは対面授業に戻り、順調な滑り出しのように見えました。特に様々なお勤めの作業法は、オンライン授業のように画面の動画を見ているだけではわからなかった体の動きを、身をもって練習できるようにになりました。これで、唱える声明と動作をひとつにまとめることができ、より多くのことを学べるようになりました。この時点では、世の中の状況は好転するように見えていました。

そんな中、学校以外の授業でもやることをやろうと、ご本山(西本願寺)の資格のひとつである巡讃申と、資格の取得に挑戦しました。この資格は、御門主様が出席する法要に列席し、一緒にお勤めするために必要となる資格で、取得するためには筆記試験と実唱試験に合格しなければなりません。一所懸命勉強と練習を積んで、無事に合格することができました。

また毎年11月ごろからは、浄土真宗の一般寺院では報恩講が営まれます。報恩講は浄土真宗では最も大事な法要で、宗祖親鸞聖人の命日にちなんで、聖人の遺徳と阿弥陀如来のお慈悲を偲び感謝の念を報じるものです。そんなお寺のいくつかの報恩講に、法要を勤める僧侶の一人として参加する機会も頂きました。学校の中での練習ではなく、実際の法要に参加するためにさらに練習を積むなど、よい経験になりました。

そして今年1月9日から16日まで、1週間かけてご本山での報恩講が執り行われました。この期間にはいくつかの法要が営まれるのですが、私もそのうちの3つに出勤させていただきました。貴重な経験をする事ができました。例年ですと大勢のご門徒さんが参列するのですが、今回は新型コロナウイルスの感染拡大防止のために、人数が大幅に制限されました。さらに期間中には京都を含む関西圏に緊急事態宣言が発出され、全体的に法要で参拝が取りやめとなり、オンライン配信となりました。

授業もあと1カ月を残すところで再びオンライン授業に切り替わり、2月の期末試験もレポート提出の形式となりました。

ところで私はカナダを出る前に、日本で雅楽の楽器である箏(しょう)を習おうと考えていました。箏は、いくつかの浄土真宗の法要で行われる演奏にも使われます。しかしこれも中央仏教学院での音楽活動が全て中止となり、夏までは実現できませんでした。ようやく、レッスンをしてくれる箏の演奏者を見つけ、9月から少しずつ練習を続けています。お稽古の回数も限られており、残された期間でやれるところまでやってみようと頑張っています。

3月には今回の留学の最後の目的、教師資格を取得するための宿泊研修に参加する予定です。この資格はカナダで開教使として赴任する際に必要となりますが、これもおかげさまで毎日が忙しく過ぎていきますが、これも皆様の温かい支援があったからこそ実現できたものであり、さらに阿弥陀様の御慈悲と御導きによるものだと思っております。この場を借りて、厚く御礼申し上げます。

皆様に再びお目にかかることのできる日を、心待ちにしております。

合掌  
平野直樹





# 法 の と も し び

## 「お」と「ご」のお陰様



二月となり、冬が一番厳しい時期に入りました。また、コロナウィルスパンデミックも一向にも収まらない様子で、まだまだ世の中は暗闇の中にいるみたいです。皆様はいかがお過ごしでしょうか？

あまりいい話題のない今日この頃ですが、先日こんな出来事がありました。あるメンバーの方がお饅頭を作ってわざわざお寺に持ってきて

くださったのです。「先生いつもお参りありがとうございます。少しく大福を作ったのでどうぞご家族の皆様と召し上がってください」と言って帰られました。その晩お大福を美味しくいただきながら、日本語にはとても面白い表現があるなと思いました。「大福」と言う名前には多くの福が来るようにと願いを込めて作られたことから、このような名前がついたのだと思います。また、敬語にする単語の頭につける「お」や「ご」について少し考えることにしました。たとえば、たった一文字でただの「飯」が「ご飯」に変わった。り、また「陰」は「お陰」になったり、数多くの言葉が「お」や「ご」をつけるだけで意味も大きく変わることや言葉がうまく使われること、仏教用語に「ご縁」と言う言葉がよく使われますが、仏教思想の「縁起法則」からきます。「すべての出来事は因と縁によって生じ、またその因と縁が無くなると滅していく」とい

う教えなのですが、「因」と「縁」の尊さを感じた時にはじめて「ご縁」と言う考えが生まれてくるのではないかと思います。つまり、コロナウィルスパンデミックによって、お寺の活動はオンラインでしかできないようになったお陰でローカルだけではなく、全国または国境を越えて幅広いところからお参りに参加される方が増えて大変多くの方とご縁をいただくことができました。

二月はお釈迦様が入滅された、涅槃会法要を勤める月であります。紀元前550年あたりにクシナガラという街の郊外のサラ樹林で二月の満月の時にお釈迦様が頭を北に西に向かって横になり、静かに八十歳の生涯を終えて、入滅されたと言われています。大乘仏教の多くの国では二月十五日に涅槃会のお参りが行われます。当仏教会では毎年二月の祥月法要と一緒に勤めさせていただきます。涅槃会法要はお釈迦様の御命日法要の月とも考えられます。

この尊い「ご縁」をいただき、皆様と共にお念仏のみ教えを聴聞し続けたいと思っています。どうぞよろしくお願いいたします。

合掌  
生田真見



## スティーブストン仏教会 年次総会

2月28日（日曜日）の午後1時より  
当仏教会の年次総会を開催いたします。今年にはコロナウィルスパンデミ

ックにより、バーチャル総会とさせていただきます。参加希望者はお寺の事務所あるいは生田先生に連絡ください。参加者にはZoom Meetingの招待リンクをメールいたします。皆様のご理解とご協力にお礼を申し上げます。

合掌  
仏教会より

## オフィスからのお願いー 郷 恵子

千羽鶴の由来は苦しんでる方への病氣回復、希望または平和祈願など深い意味が隠されています。そして今は今が正しくその千羽鶴を折る時期であるかと思っています。新型コロナウィルス感染急拡大に伴い生死をさ迷って戦っている患者さん方、また自らの命までリスクを背負いながら過酷な対応を強いられる医師、看護師、医療関係者、そしてシニア施設のスタッフの方になんとか頑張っ乗り越えて欲しいと希望とお礼の意を示すため、折鶴をローカルの病院やシニア施設に寄贈したいと考えています。従ってお寺の会費数人方とお友達に協力を得て折鶴（15cmX15cm）をおり紙や包装紙で折ることをお願い致しました。既に折鶴は千羽以上集まり毎晩私は自宅でせっせと糸を通してありますが、2月15日まで継続したいと思

## 婦人会からのお知らせ

吉原ヒロコ



カナダ浄土真宗仏教婦人会は新型コロナウイルス等のため人とあまり会えなくなっている人達にカードを送る事を提案しました。

お寺の当番のリーダーや他の人たちに相談した結果、婦人会もこの提案に賛成しました。お寺の役員会で、個人のプライバシー等に関して議論した結果、会員リストを得る許可が出、生年入りのリストを得ました。全会員数は238人で、どこかで限度をつけないといけませんので、1939年にします（1939年かそれ以前に生まれた方でも会員として活躍なさっている方たちは除きます。すみません。どうぞガッカリなさいませうに）。さらに、生年が抜けている方のリストが2ページ分ありますので、カードが届かない方達も多くいると思います。バレンタインデーまでにはカードを送りたいと思います。

ほとんどのことが止まり、気分の暗いこの頃ですが、皆様どうぞお体にお気をつけていろいろな方法で人と交わる事を心がけてください。



います。現在お寺は閉鎖されていますが、更に折鶴を折って頂ける方はお手数ですがオフィスまでご連絡下さいませ。皆様の思いは必ず病院、シニア施設で戦っている方々へ届くと信じています。ご協力を心から感謝致します。





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*Join the Sangha and spread the Dharma*



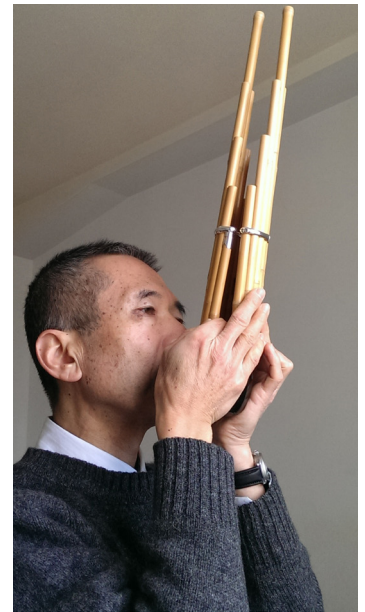
Hoonko at the International Centre

Naoki Sensei from the rooftop of his apartment building



Naoki Sensei with other students during Hoonko at the Hongwanji

Naoki Sensei practicing the Sho



## Kung Hei Fat Choy!

Happy Chinese New Year! 2021 is the Year of the Ox, a year when hard work will be rewarded. We've been working hard on Wisteria Place, and are excited to welcome residents this spring! Watch our social media for our Lion Dance video!

## Keep connected and active with Wisteria Place

We are hosting several events over the coming weeks, each one intended to keep our community active, healthy, and engaging. Join our online fitness class on February 18th!  
Visit us at [Facebook.com/wisteriaplacebc](https://www.facebook.com/wisteriaplacebc) to learn more.

