



# 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

Sunday May 2

10:00am Shotsuki Service

11:30am Japanese Service

Monday May 10

7:00pm SBT Board Meeting

Sunday May 16

10:00am Gotanye Service

11:30am Japanese Service

Tuesday April 13 - May 25

7:30pm Spring Lecture Series

Sunday June 6th

10:00am Shotsuki Service

11:30am Japanese Service

**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 1**

Contact: June Ikuta  
604-277-5077

## May 21st is Shinran Shonin's Birthday

*I reflect within myself: The Universal Vow difficult to fathom is indeed a great vessel bearing us across the ocean difficult to cross.*

*The unhindered light is the sun of wisdom dispersing the darkness of our ignorance.*

(From preface of Shinran Shonin's *The True Teaching, Practice, and Realization of the Pure Land Way*)



Entering the month of May, it is hard to believe that a quarter of this year has already gone by. Even though we have been prevented from doing much of anything due to the Covid-19 restrictions, yet time still seems to fly on by. May is the month in which we celebrate the birth of the founder of Jodo Shinshu, Shinran Shonin, who was born on May 21st, 1173. At our mother temple in Kyoto Japan, they hold many festive events spanning the two days of May 20th and 21st. Here in Steveston, we generally commemorate the event with the Gotanye Service on the third Sunday of May. This year it will be on May 16th.

In commemorating the birth of Shinran Shonin, I'd like to share with you the passage from Shinran Shonin's *The True Teaching, Practice, and Realization of the Pure Land Way* or *Kyo Gyo Shin Sho* as it is commonly referred to in Japanese. The passage, which I introduced at the beginning of this article, comes from the Preface of the *Kyo Gyo Shin Sho* and is the very first line of the text. Being the first line, it carries so much meaning as it is the opening statement telling the readers what the rest of the text is going to be about.

Shinran Shonin states that upon quiet reflection he realized the Universal Vow of Amida Buddha is the great vessel that carries us across this sea of ignorance. He came to this conclusion through his personal experience. Due to circumstances, when he was still only 9 years old, Shinran entered the Tendai monastery and spent the next 20 years following the arduous practices as a Tendai monk on Mt. Hiei, just North East of Kyoto. The more he studied and practiced on Mt. Hiei, the more he came to realize how difficult it was to attain enlightenment through his own powers. If the original intention of the Buddha was to guide all beings to enlightenment, then how could it be that the teachings would only allow the most accomplished of beings from reaching that goal? This was one of the factors that led Shinran Shonin to leave Mt. Hiei, he felt completely incapable of doing any practice that would lead him to true enlightenment. It was only after he left Mt. Hiei and began following the Nembutsu teachings as instructed by Honen Shonin that Shinran Shonin realized the greatness of Amida Buddha's teaching. It is great because the Nembutsu teaching does not rely on the ability of the individual, all beings are embraced equally just as they are.

Perhaps an analogy can be seen in the development of the computer software program Microsoft Windows. Through the introduction of Microsoft Windows, the users were able to interface easily with the computer. All the technical work was done by Microsoft and all the end user had to do was basically turn on the computer. In a similar way, all of the hard practice has been fulfilled by Amida Buddha and all we have to do is to receive the working with an entrusting heart, reciting the name of the Buddha out of gratitude.

Shinran Shonin was awoken to the reality that the more inclusive the teaching was of all beings, the greater it is. Thus he called the universal Vow the great vessel carrying across the Ocean difficult to cross.

Please join us on Sunday, May 16th starting at 10:00 am on Zoom, as we celebrate our founder, Shinran Shonin.

In Gassho,  
Grant Ikuta

## The Butsu-zo The Buddha's Statue

Previously, I had written about the Wheel of Dharma uniquely identifying all Buddhist institutions world-wide, and the Wisteria identifying Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Going forward, I would like to identify the item which is special and unique to the Steveston temple. It is the Gohonzon - the central figure of the Naijin. The Gohonzon can take on three forms: the Butsu-zo - Buddha's statue, the Goei-zo - the scroll with the image of the Buddha or the Myo-go - the six character calligraphy of Namu Amida Butsu. Like many Jodo Shinshu temples we have identified with the Butsu-zo.



Our Butsu-zo is very unique. It was customized and designed specifically to suit the architecture of the Naijin and the Hondo. Photographs and the dimensions of the Hondo and specifically that of the Naijin were forwarded to the firm specializing in such work in order that the statue would suit the features and the aesthetic qualities of the temple. It is not a replica of other manufactured statues.

The Butsu-zo was sculptured, in 1981, by a highly skilled craftsman in Osaka, Japan. The statue, which is 1.4 metres in height and layered with 22 carat gold, is made from Hinoki wood, a species of Cypress, native to central Japan. This highly revered tree is commonly used for statues and shrines for its durability and for its oil which has a fragrance giving a calming ambience that creates spiritual awareness. It is the same wood used to build the Horyuji Temple in Nara, Japan built in 603 by Prince Shotoku; it is known to be the oldest wooden structure in the world.

An interesting aspect of the statue is the Kohai (the halo/backdrop of the Butsu-zo) which was designed in the form

of a boat. This boat is very unique to the temple as it is on this boat that one makes the journey from "this shore (of the fishing village of Steveston) to the other shore". Typically, most Jodo Shinshu temples have the halo of the 48 rays (the 48 Vows expounded by Shakyamuni Buddha).

The Butsu-zo is a reflection of the craftsman's artistic abilities and most particularly his insight into the use of light to enhance the finite qualities of the Buddha's hair - the curly dark coloured root hair and the fleshy protuberance on the crown, the serene facial expression, the welcoming hands in the form of a mudra, the delicate and multiple folds of the robe, and the feet firmly planted on the lotus pad. This is a masterful evidence of craftsman's deft hands in creating a piece of art. The statue is the expression of the craftsman's reverence and his spiritual connection with the Buddha. There is much more to the statue than the mere physical representation of the Buddha.

The Butsu-zo is a symbolic statement of the Nembutsu; it is a reminder of the voice of Amida Buddha - Namu Amida Butsu.

Rennyō Shōnin, the eighth Monshū of the Honpa Hongwanji, stated in one of His Letters - Fascicle Three:

*"And so ... when we reflect on Amida Tathagata's painstaking endeavours of five kalpas ... and when we think of the graciousness and wonder of his saying, it is hard to express our feelings. Hence [we realize] all the more that - walking, standing, sitting, and lying down, irrespective of time, place, or other circumstances - we should simply repeat the Nembutsu, saying the Name of the Buddha in grateful return for the Buddha's benevolence."*

Respectfully, written on the twentieth day

of the tenth month, Bunmei 6 [1474]

This Butsu-zo is indeed unique to the Steveston Buddhist Temple. It was installed in 1982 and officially dedicated at a special ceremony on October 27, 1984 by the Gomonshu, Koshin Ohtani.

In Gassho, Roy Akune

## More Alike Than Different

by: Durgesh Kasbekar

Lately there have been rising crimes against Asians in the US and Canada. My wife and I regularly visit a Cafe on Number 1 and Monton Street in Steveston village in Richmond. A few weeks ago, a young Asian man who works there was subjected to racial abuse. These are disturbing times. Our continents, cultures and consciousness are far more interconnected than we realize. The learning and teaching of Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Thai and Indonesian martial arts is a mainstream activity in North American life. Western audiences were captivated by Bruce Lee and many celebrities were his students. George Lucas and Steven Spielberg would watch Akira Kurosawa's samurai films when they were students at film school. The samurai figure inspired the creation of the Jedi - selfless warriors in the Star Wars franchise. Quentin Tarantino's Kill Bill series starting from 2003 onwards was heavily inspired by Asian figures and ideas. No matter the degree of hatred, the worst of Asian haters would still enjoy the food originating from different Asian countries. Buddhism and Meditation has travelled from the East and enriched North America.

Those who hate Asians must contemplate on making an effort of seeing some good in Asians and their contributions to North America. On the other hand, those Asians who are targeted should never let go of hope and optimism

The following paragraph provides one such example of hope and optimism.

In exploring spiritual Buddhist themes in the Star Wars franchise, author Matthew Bortolin in his book "The Dharma of Star Wars" says that in the Star Wars saga, there is one fundamental difference between Luke Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi. After his confrontation with his father Darth Vader, Luke understands that there is still good which remains hidden deep inside Vader - a fact which Obi overlooks. Obi is unable to see beyond Vader's vile deeds. However, Luke's understanding goes deeper and he says to his sister Leia "There is good in him, I felt it. He won't turn me over to the Emperor. I can save him. I can turn him back to the good side. I have to try" (Bortolin, 2015)

Similarly, as Buddhists, no matter the odds, we should always strive to look at the good in others.

Reference

Bortolin, M. (2015). The Jedi Way is the Dharma Way. Retrieved from <https://www.lionsroar.com/may-the-fourth-and-luke-skywalkers-wisdom-be-with-you/>

### Face Masks for \$10 each

Black or grey with Wisteria Crest

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at 604.230.8787 (cell)

## Donations

The Steveston Buddhist Temple sincerely appreciates and thanks the following for their generous donations: All donations received after April 23 will be announced in the next newsletter. \*There has been some confusion regarding donations to the temple. Some people have been writing a single cheque with notation stating that the cheque is in memory of numerous individuals who are remembered at numerous Shotsuki Memorial Services. Please note that, in such a situation, it is very difficult for the office to keep track of and acknowledging the donations for the individuals in the newsletter corresponding with the Shotsuki month that they passed away in. Starting from now, any cheques with notations stating that it is in memory for numerous individuals, the names of the individuals will be acknowledged in the month that the cheque has been deposited. If you wish to have the donations acknowledged in the newsletter corresponding with the Shotsuki month, we ask that you to continue making donations during the actual Shotsuki memorial month of that individual.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. 最近一年を通じた法要と祥月御懇志を小切手に一括で送られてくるケースが多くなりました。その場合は入金されたその月のニュースレターにまとめてお報せ致しますのでご了承下さいませ。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かもお忘れなく記載して下さいませ。有難うございました。

**General donation(\$1965.60):** Alford Ryan, Anzai June, Koerber Debbie, Kurita Yoshie, Kuwabara Seiya, Morishita Elmer, Nishi Shizuko, Oda Jennifer, Tabata Toshiyuki, Takasaki Nancy, Whittier Maya, Ryan Jeanne, Yoshioka Stan & Lucy, Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple, Anonymous by online

**Naijin Flower Donation:** Kakehi Tomoko

**Hanamatsuri Service(\$2465):** Akune Roy & Itoko, Chow Suezone & Nobu, Hamaura Masako, Hamaura Misaye, Hashimoto Junichi & Atsumi, Ikuta Denise, Ikuta Kevin & Karen, Ikuta Kuni & June, Ikuta Makoto, Ikuta Teruko, Iwata Genevieve, Kakehi Tomoko, Kondo Kaoru, Kurita Yoshie, Maede Toyoko, Kawabata Mitsuyo, Jack, & Victor, Kokubo Alice, Matsumura Laverne, Matsuno Seishi & Kisako, Mizushima Tatsutoki & Karen, Mori Koji & Judith, Morizawa Chiyoko, Morizawa Sazare, Mukai Akiko, Nakanishi Mike & Frances, Nakatsu Tsuyoshi & Chizuru, Narukami Don & Chiyo, Niguma Kazuko, Nishi Chizuko, Nishi Kayoko, Nishikihama Teruko, Nishimura Grace, Nitta Ayako, Niwatsukino Kyoko, Okabe Mary, Oki Hiroshi, Oye Hanako, Ryan Jeanne, Sakai Marge, Sakai Mitts & Kay, Sakai Tomiko, Sakamoto Umeno, Sakata Hozumi, Sameshima Yoshiko, Setterstrom Amy, Shiozaki Masako, Suyama Eiji & Caroline, Suzuki Kanao, Tabata Hajime & Kyoko, Tabata Toshiyuki, Tani Kiyoshi & Mutsumi, Tasaka Kaz & Chic, Toyoda Miyuki, Whittier Maya, Yamanaka Miyoko, Yamanaka Keiko, Yoshida Dave & Arlene, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko,

**Ohigan Service(\$1375):** Akizuki Eiko, Akune Roy & Itoko, Go Keiko, Hamaura Masako, Hamaura Misaye, Harada Jack, Ikuta Kuni & June, Ikuta Makoto, Ikuta Teruko, Iwata Genevieve, Kamachi Yoshiko, Kawabata Mitsuyo & Jack, Kokubo Alice, Kondo Kaoru, Morizawa Chiyoko, Morizawa Sazare, Koyanagi Susie, Maede Toyoko, Matsumura Laverne, Matsuno Seishi & Kisako, Mori Koji & Judith, Mukai Akiko, Nakatsu Tsuyoshi & Chizuru, Narukami Don & Chiyo, Niguma Kazuko, Nishi Chizuko, Nishi Kayoko, Nishikihama Teruko, Nishimura Grace, Nitta Ayako, Okabe Mary, Oki Hiroshi, Oye Hanako, Sakai Marge, Sakai Tomiko, Sameshima Yoshiko, Setterstrom Amy, Suzuki Kent, Tani Tsuyoshi & Mutsumi, Tomihiro Kazuko, Toyoda Miyuki, Whittier Maya, Yamashita Setsuko

**Hoonko Service(\$65):** Toyoda Miyuki, Whittier Maya, Yamashita Setsuko  
**Shotsuki Service(\$3315):**

**February:** Kokubo Alice, Turnbull Kaoru & Keith, Yesaki Tad & Mae,

**March:** Domai Kiyo, Hamaura Misaye, Ikuta Kuni & June, Kawabata Mitsuyo, McDonnell Dawn & Gordon, Turnbull Kaoru & Keith

**April:** Akizuki Casey, Akizuki Eiko, Akune Roy & Itoko, Akune Ted & Rose, Doi Peter & Louise, Fukakusa Shinobu, Gallop Fred & Haruko, Hamade Yoko, Guthrie Virginia, Hamano Heidi, Hanlon Grace, Larson Elaine, Higo Kelvin & Kay, Horii Caryn, Ikuta Makoto, Ikuta Teruko, Kamikura Roger & Joyce, Kariya Florence, Kariya Yoriko, Kishiuchi Darlene, Kishiuchi Gord, Kojima Jim & Michiko, Matsumura Danny, McLean Duncan & Jenny, Matsumura Laverne, Matsuo Ken, Miller Karen, Morishita Brian & Elaine, Morizawa Chiyoko, Morizawa Sazare, Morishita Joy, Mukai Akiko, Mukai Sadao & Shioko, Murao Dick, Murao Kenny & Janet, Murao Ray, Nakanishi Mike & Frances, Narukami

Don & Chiyo, Niguma Kazuko, Nishi Chizuko, Nishi Patricia, Oikawa Brian, Oikawa Joanne, Oikawa Toyoko, Oye Hanako, Quan Toshiko, Ryan Jeanne, Sakai Marge, Sakamoto Chikako, Sameshima Michael, Sameshima Miles, Satosono Aya, Shiyoji Lorraine, Takasaki Nancy, Tani Kiyoshi & Mutsumi, Tasaka Randi & Joyce, Yesaki Arthur, Yesaki Mitsuo, Yesaki Tom, Yokota Amy, Yokota Carl

**May:** Akizuki Casey, Akune Ted & Rose,

**June:** Akizuki Casey, Akune Ted & Rose

**Funerals & Memorials - In memory of the late(\$3480)**

**Mr. Mitsuo Takasaki:** Sakurai Tommy & Naomi

**Mrs. Masako Uyeda:** Katai Edward & Teruko, Ikuta Kuni & June, Yoshida Harry & Setsuko, SBTWA

**Mr. Katsuyuki Sakuraba:** Okabe Mary, Yamamoto Toyoko

**Mrs. Yasuko Tezuka:** Doi Peter & Louise, Higo Kelvin & Kay, Tasaka Randy & Joyce, Steveston Kendo Club

**49th day Service of the late Mrs. Minako Nakano:** Nakano Family

**Mrs. Minako Nakano:** Tani Kiyoshi & Mutsumi, Yamamoto Kayoko

**1st year Memorial Service of the late Mr. Bob Hamaura:** Hamaura Misaye, Hamaura Dean, Phillips Kim, Akune Roy & Itoko, Akune Robert & Molly, Akune Aaron & Vicky, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko

**1st year Memorial Service of the late Ms. Carole Yamamoto:** Yoshida Harry & Setsuko

**1st year memorial of the late Mr. Terry Sakai:** Sakai Marge & Family, Toyoda Miyuki

**1st year memorial of the late Mrs. Kikue Osaka:** Toyoda Miyuki

**7th year memorial of the late Mrs. Ayako Yokota:** Yokota Carl

**21st year memorial of the late Mrs. Toshiko Takasaki:** Koyanagi Susie, Tomihiro Kazuko

**33rd year memorial of the late Mr. Yasuo Oye:** Oye Hanako, Oye Larry, Challoner Bernice, Nishi Chizuko

**Mrs. Hisae Domai:** Quan Toshiko

**Mrs. Rosie Yoshiko Ohtani:** Okabe Mary

**Mrs. Nobue Atode:** Morizawa Chiyoko

**Pioneers from Mio, Wakayama, Japan:** Mizuta Harry & Akemi

**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.**



**2021 Membership paid:** Anzai June, Akune Roy & Itoko, Akune Ted & Rose, Araki Linda, Chow Suezone & Nobu, Dickens Kinuko, Hamade Yoko, Hamaura Masako, Hashimoto Junichi & Atsumi, Ikuta Denise, Ikuta Kevin, Ikuta Kuni & June, Iwata Genevieve, Kakehi Tomoko, Kamide Hajime, Kawabata Mitsuyo & Victor, King Hiroko, Matsuno Seishi & Kisako, Matsumura Laverne, Mineta Masayoshi, Mori Koji & Judith, Morishita Elmer, Nagata Sayoko, Nakanishi Mike & Frances, Nakatsu Tsuyoshi & Chizuru, Narukami Chiyoko, Nishi Chizuko, Nishi Kayoko, Nishimura Grace, Obayashi Jo-Ann, Okabe Mary, Ohara Isao & Kazuko, Okano Nicole, Ryan Larry & Jeanne, Sakai Marge, Sakai Mitsuko, Sakamoto Alan & Cathy, Sakamoto Chikako, Sakata Hozumi, Sameshima Miles, Sano Masayoshi, Sato Helen, Suyama Eiji & Caroline, Tabata Kyoko, Tabata Setsuko, Tabata Tosh & Mieko, Takizawa Yasuo, Tani Kiyoshi & Mutsumi, Tasaka Kaz & Chic, Toyoda Miyuki, Yoshida Dave & Arlene, Yamanaka Keiko, Yamanaka Miyoko, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko

## NEW MEMBER

\* Welcome to the Steveston Buddhist Temple \*

Miles Sameshima

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.



**STEVESTON  
Buddhist  
Temple**

4360 Garry Street  
Richmond BC. V7E 2V2  
Tel: (604) 277-2323  
Fax: (604) 277-0313  
info@steveston-temple.ca  
www.steveston-temple.ca

**Would you like to receive your own copy of Dharma Light?**

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**



**FUJINKAI NEWS**

**Hiroko Yoshihara**

Many of us have not visited the temple and have not seen the changes which have been made around the kitchen and throughout the other spaces. First you would have noticed the plastic sheets at the side entrance and then the layers of dust! The cabinet doors were removed and the contents of the shelves were covered with more plastic sheets. In early April, stylish white doors were put on the cabinets.

Once the renovations are complete, dusting will be necessary. In the coat/change room, the counter and sink along with the mirror were removed to make room for a washer and dryer combination. At the end of the hallway which led to the gym, a new door with glass bring in welcomed light. This has replaced the solid wooden door.

Looking to the future, decisions will be made to determine the equipment needed for the kitchen next to the multi purpose room in Wisteria Place and what will be kept for the temple kitchen. As we resume activities, adjustments will be made over time. Also as members and friends downsize, many great donations have been received. Some of the items are ikebana containers, bento trays, craft kits, etc. In the summer outdoor garage sales will be held in the parking lot. Help will be appreciated.

Be sure to maintain your social connections by phone and keep your mind active during this time of keeping your distance and wearing your face masks.

**2021 Hanamatsuri**

Although we are still in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic and have not been able to gather together at the temple for services, we have been making the most out of our present situation. Hanamatsuri weekend on April 17th and 18th was a prime example of this. On Saturday, April 17th, guest sensei Rev. Yuki Sugahara of the Oregon Buddhist Temple joined us on Zoom to give us an interesting Dharma lecture on, "What is 'Right' in Buddhism". Sugahara Sensei began his talk by introducing some Yogacara Buddhist Concepts and concluded by expressing that in the Jodo Shinshu Teachings, 'Right Thought' is the Nembutsu itself which comes from the working of Amida Buddha. Sugahara Sensei also provided pre-recorded dharma messages for our Sunday Hanamatsuri services in English and Japanese. Thank you to all those who joined in the weekend events. Despite the difficult times, your participation is vital in keeping our Sangha going.

In Gassho, Rev. Grant Ikuta



**OBITUARY**



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

Mitsuo Takasaki	March 22, 2021	92 Years Old
Tokiko Okano	April 22, 2021	86 Years Old

**MAY 2021 MEMORIAL SERVICE  
(Please bring your "Homyo".)**

Akizuki, Sukenobu	Ishida, Takezo	Matsuba, Nobuo	Ogawa, Masatsugu	Sakata, Chiyoko	Takasaki, Kazuo
Akizuki, Takeyo	Ishida, Tracy Toru	Matsumura, Yasue	Okano, Fumio	Sakata, Masakazu	Takeuchi, Fujitaka
Hamade, Hatsuyo	Kanno, Kikumi	Mori, Michiharu	Okano, Hideo	Sakiyama, Fukumatsu	Taniwa, Tei
Hamaura, Kiichiro	Kishiuchi, Tane	Murao, Michitaka	Okano, Masaji	Sakiyama, Joy	Toyoda, Fusako
Haya, Haruko	Kitade, Yasuo	Murao, Nagako	Osaka, George	Sameshima, Hisako	Upadhyaya, Hisaka
Hayashi, Yasu	Kuriyama, Kikuyo	Nagata, Shokichi	Oshiro, Art Yeichi	Sato, Fumie	Yamamoto, Kazuhiko
Ikari, Toshiko	Kurahashi, Tazuko	Nishi, Teruo	Ryan, Lee Takashi	Shirakawa, Kiichiro	Yamamoto, Nancy
Ikeda, Hisano	Kuramoto, Tomiyuki	Nishikihama, Konosuke	Sakamoto, Claudette	Tabata, Tatsue	Sumiko
Inouye, Tomojiro	Maekawa, Sandra Takeno	Nomura, Yukie	Sakamoto, Noboru	Tabata, Yoshiaki	Yamamoto, Terumi

**JUNE 2021 MEMORIAL SERVICE  
(Please bring your "Homyo".)**

Akizuki, Lindsay	Hibi, Tadasu	Koyama, Fukujiro	Murakami, Collin	Sakai, Matsu	Toyoda, Shigeru, Jerry
Asano, Teisuke	Hikita, Emiko	Kokubo, Mike	Murakami, Tsuneko	Sakata, Kazue	Uyeyama, Matakichi
Domai, Toyokichi	Ikeda, Torakichi	Kurahashi, Setsuyo	Muramatsu, Joe	Sakata, Shozo	Wada, Kazuko
Hamade, Itsuji	Ito, Misao	Kuramoto, Haruo Harry	Nakagawa, Shuichiro	Sameshima, Merry	Yamamoto, Yoshio
Hamanishi, Kiyoko	Ito, Toramatsu	Kuramoto, Kayo	Nakane, Kazuo	Shimizu, Mitsuye	Yamanaka, Tomizo
Hamanishi, Yoshio	Kamide, Patsy Shizuko	Maeda, Tsunekichi	Nakano, Chikae	Shinde, Yoshiharu	Yoshida, Troy
Hamaura, Sadame	Kariya, Tsuneko	Matsunaga, Masami	Nishi, Kazumi	Shiyoji, Masako	Yoshida, Yoshiji
Harada, Tamae	Kawamoto, Itoe	Matsuyama, Yaeko	Nishi, Toshiharu	St. Hilaire, Linda	
Harada, Teiko	Kawasaki, Koichi	Morimoto, Bobby	Nishii, Torakichi	Mayumi	
Hashimoto, Kimie	Kikuchi, Kei	Morishita, Eikichi	Nitta, Mitsuyo	Tani, Shinzo	
Hashimoto, Masuo	Kojima, Kenosuke	Morishita, Sentaro	Okano, Mine	Tanigami, Tomie	



# 法のともしび

## 5月21日は親鸞聖人のご誕生日です



ひそかにおもみれば、難思(なんじ)の弘(ぐ)誓(ぜい)は難度(なんど)海(かい)を度(ど)する大船(だいせん)、無碍(むげ)の光明(こうみょう)は無明(むみょう)の闇(あん)を破(は)する恵(え)日(にち)なり。  
(親鸞聖人の顕浄土真実教行証文類序文より)

皆さん、お元気ですか？5月は御開山親鸞聖人のご誕生を祝う降誕会法要が行われる月です。親鸞聖人がご誕生されたのは1173年5月21日とされています。京都の本願寺では5月20日と21日の二日にわたって多くの行事を行います。ステイブストン仏教会では5月の第三日曜日に降誕会法要を行ってまいります。さて、今回ご紹介させていただいた引用文は親鸞聖人が著作された「顕浄土真実教行証文類」(略して『教行信証』)の序文の出だしの言葉です。筆頭文なので、この著作で何を伝えたいのかを紹介する最も重要な文であると考えてもいいと思います。本願寺出版の梯實圓著の現代語「教行信証」には次のように訳されています。「ひそかに思うに、人の思いをはるかに超えて万人を包む広大な本願は、渡りがたい苦悩の海を渡したまう大いなる船であり、すべての人をさりなく救いたまう阿弥陀仏の光明は、私たちの無智の闇をやぶって、

心に真実の明るさをもち、太陽のよう  
に輝く智慧の徳をのぞく。」「  
親鸞聖人はこの迷いの海を渡るためには自願救  
分の力で泳いで渡りよる方も阿弥陀様の人の本願  
という優れた方法でお任せすると仰せられておられるに  
えのります。また、この結論にたどり着くには  
は、9歳から29歳の20年間、比叡山で天台影  
宗の僧侶として過ごされたことと、大教義は教  
響を与えたことでしよ。天台宗の修行に励  
修を中自に悟りへ。の道を開く教  
えなのです。しかし、親鸞聖人は修行に励  
むうちに自分の煩惱の深さを感ずるばかり  
でした。それに気づいた親鸞聖人は比叡山  
を下して、法然上人のもとでお念仏のみ  
を教えたことにより、修行に励む者の  
一部が救われる道より多くが本願  
抱えて下されるお念仏のみ教えこそ  
教えてあり大船であることに気づか  
れたいです。その教えを懸命に伝えてくださ  
そおかげで今日まで浄土真宗のみ教えが  
けられたのです。降誕会法要を勝縁尊  
お念仏のみ教えを皆様と一緒に聞かせ  
ていただきたく思っています。これか  
らもうぞよろしくお願い申し上げます。  
合掌 生田 グラント

## 仏像

以前、世界中の仏教界を表すシンボルとしての法輪について、まほろばとして浄土真宗の象徴としての藤の花について書きました。今回はステイブストンのお寺の独特な事について書きまします。それは内陣の中心であるご本尊の事です。ご本尊は3つの形ではあらわす事が出来ません。それらは、仏像、絵に描かれた御影像、そして墨で書かれた南無阿弥陀仏の六字の号字です。多くのご本尊も仏像です。ここのご本尊は非常に独特です。というのは、本堂と内陣の建築に合うように特別に注文しデザインされた仏像だからです。お寺の特徴と美しさに調和するように、本堂と内陣の写真と寸法を仏像を作る会社に送りました。すでにある仏像の複製ではありません。仏像は1981年に大阪の非常に熟練した彫り師に彫ってもらいました。ヒノキの仏像は1.4mあり、22金をかぶせてあります。ヒノキは耐久性があり非常に尊重され、仏像や神社仏閣を作るのに使われます。またその油はいい香りがし心を落ち着かせ精神を明晰に保つのに有効です。聖徳太子が607年頃に建てられた法隆寺もヒノキで出来ています。法隆寺は世界最古の木造建築として知られています。仏像の後ろにある光背(こうはい)は舟の形をしており興味をそそります。この舟はこちら側(此岸・しがん)のステイブストンの漁村から向こう側(彼岸・ひがん)にわたる舟でこのお寺独特の光背です。一般的に浄土真宗のお寺では48の光線で作られている光背を使います(阿弥陀様の48願はお釈迦様が説明なさっています)。



仏像は彫り師の芸術的才能が反映されます。特に光をどのように反射させるかによって仏像の様々な特徴を引き出す事が出来ます。例えば、濃い色でカーブルして人々の髪を重くする突起、おだやかな顔の表情、か折り人々を迎え入れる蓮の花の上に乗るかかると立って重なる足等です。これらの事は、このような芸術作品を生み出せる、非常に熟練した職人の巧みな技術によるものである事を証明しています。職人の仏さまに対する尊敬の念と精神的なつながりが、仏様の姿全体に表れています。仏像は単に仏さまを物理的に表す以上のものがあります。また、仏像は念仏の象徴でもあります。南無阿弥陀仏という阿弥陀様のお声を思い出させてくれます。本派本願寺8代目ご門主の蓮如上人が書かれた御文章3帖目第6通に次のように述べていらっしゃいます。「このゆゑに弥陀如来の五劫兆載永劫の御苦勞を案ずるにも、われらをやすうたすけたまふことのありがたき、たふときをおもへばなかなか申すもおろかなり。されば。。。いよいよ行住坐臥時処諸縁をきはらず、仏恩報尽のためにただ称名念仏すべきものなり。あなかしこ、あなかしこ。文明6(1474)年10月20日これを書く。」(現代語訳：阿弥陀如来のご苦勞は言葉にあらわすこともできないほど尊いものです。ですから、、、歩いていても、とどまっても、座っていても、寝ていても、またいつどこでも、仏恩報謝の念仏を申すべきであります。)この仏像は独特の像でステイブストン仏教会にしかありません。1982年にお寺に設置され、1984年10月27日に西本願寺ご門主の大谷光真様により正式な奉納の儀式が執り行われました。合掌 阿久根ロイ

# 人は互いに違っているよりは似ている方が多い

カスベカー・ダーゲシュ

最近アメリカやカナダでアジア人を狙った犯罪が増えています。妻と私はステューブストンのNo. 1 Roadとモンクトンの角のコーヒーショップによく行きます。数週間前、そこで働いているアジア人の男性が人種差別に会い、最近はいろいろと不安な事が多かったです。北米では文化や人々の意識は自分たちが考えている以上に相互に関連しています。日本、中国、韓国、タイやインドネシアの武術を習ったり教えたりするのは北米ではだれでも普通にすることです。ジョー・ルーカスやスティーブン・シユピールバークも映画学校の学生や黒澤明の侍映画を見たことでしょう。そして侍の姿に影響されてスター・ウォーズ・シリーズに出てくる無私無欲のジェダイが作られました。2003年から始まったクエンティン・タランティノのキル・ビル・シリーズもアジア人やアジア的考え方に非常に影響されています。憎しみの度合いの差はあっても、アジア人を一番きらっている人です。さえアジアのいろいろな食べ物を喜んで食べているでしょう。仏教と瞑想は東方からその地を豊かにしています。アジア人を憎んでいる人たちは、アジア人の良い面や北米社会への貢献をまたために考えるべきです。反対に、人種差別にあったアジア人は希望と肯定感を失ってはいけません。

下記の引用は希望と肯定感を示す良い例です。マシュー・ボートリンは彼の「スター・ウォーズの精霊的側面」の中でスター・ウォーズ・シリーズのオビ・ワン・ケノービは重要な違いがあると述べています。ルーカが父親のダース・ベダーと対決した後、オビは全く気付いていませんでしたが、ルーカはベダーの心の奥底にはまだ隠されていた良い面があるのを見ました。オビはベダーの下劣な行動の先にあるのが見えなかったのです。しかしルーカは深いところまで理解し、妹のレイアにこう言っています。「彼の中には善良さがある、それを感じた。彼は私を皇帝に突き出さないだろう。私は彼を救える。私は彼を以前の善良な人に出せる。その努力をしない。」(ボートリン、2015)

同様に、仏教徒として、可能性があろうとなかろうと、いつも人のいい面を見るよう心掛けたいものです。

参考: Bortolin, M. (2015). The Jedi Way is the Dharma Way. Retrieved from <https://www.lionsroar.com/may-the-fourth-and-luke-skywalkers-wisdom-be-with-you/>

# 婦人会からのお知らせ

吉原ヒロコ



多くの皆さんは最近お寺にはいらしていないので、キッチンやお寺の改装をご覧になってはいません。まず目につくのは、横の入り口のプラスチックシートと積みり積もったほこりでしょう。キッチンの戸棚のドアは取り外されプラスチックシートがかけてありましたが、4月初めに見ばえのいい白いドアが取り付けられました。改装がすんだらほこりだけです。お掃除が必要です。

携帯品やコートを置いたりした所は、洗濯機と乾燥機を置くので、カウンター、流し、鏡は取り外されました。ジムに続いていた廊下の端は以前の木のドアでなく、光が沢山入るカラスドアになり、明るくなりました。

将来のことですが、ウィステリアプレースの多目的ホールの隣に出来るキッチンに何が必要か、またお寺のキッチンに何を残すかを決めます。いろいろな活動が始まるにつれ、あれこれ適応していかないとはいけません。また、会員や会友がダウンサイジングをしているので、寄付を沢山いただいています。生け花用品、弁当箱、手芸用品等です。夏には駐車場でガレージセールをする予定ですので、その時はお手伝いをお願いいたします。

人との距離を保ちマスクをしてコロナウィルスに感染しないようにすると同時に、電話をしたりして、精神的にいつも人とつながりを持っていてください。

## 2021年 花祭り



花祭り法要を4月17日 - 18日の週末に行われました。御講師は北米開教区オレゴン仏教会の開教使菅原祐樹先生でした。

残念ながら、全ての行事はオンラインでしか参加できませんでしたが、菅原

先生の話は大変分かりやすく、好評でした。

コロナウィルスパンデミック中お寺でのお参りは中止となっておりますが、オンラインで皆様がお参りしていただけるのでお寺としては大変ありがたいと思っています。これからも当分このような形でお参りは続けなければならぬと思っておりますが、今後どうぞよろしくお願い申し上げます。

合掌、  
生田グラント

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## 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。

高崎 満男 様	2021年3月 22日 寂	92歳
岡野 トキコ 様	2021年4月 22日 寂	86歳