



法のともしび LIGHT OF THE DHARMA

NOTICE TO MEMBERS:

We are again conducting services in person as well as per ZOOM. Please contact Sensei for links.

REGULAR SCHEDULE

ENGLISH SERVICES
Sundays 10:30am

JAPANESE SERVICES
Sundays 11:30am

SEIZA MEDITATION
Thursdays 7:30pm

MORNING MEDITATION
Fridays 10:00am

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday February 6th
10:30am Shotsuki Service
(Bilingual)

Monday February 13th
7pm SBT Board Meeting

Sunday February 19th
10:30am Dana Day Service
(Bilingual)

12:00 noon Fujinkai AGM
(Bento if you register ahead)

Sunday February 26th
1 pm SBT AGM
All Members Welcome

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: Hiroko Kawamoto
604-204-0219

On Observing Nirvana Day Service (Goodbye Old Friend)

In the forty-fifth year after his attaining Buddhahood, he became ill at Veisali and predicted that after three months he would enter Parinirvana. Still, he journeyed on until he reached Pava where he became critically ill by partaking food offered by Chunda, a blacksmith, and on the full-moon day of February, knowing that his end was near, he came at evening to Kusinagara, a place about one hundred and sixty kilometers from Benares. In the Sala grove of the Mallas, between two Sala trees, he had his bedding spread with his head towards the north according to ancient customs. He lay upon it with his head facing the west. His mind was perfectly clear when he gave his final instructions to his disciples and bade them farewell.

"My disciples, my last moment has come, but do not forget that death is only the end of the physical body. The body was born from parents and was nourished by food; just as inevitable are sickness and death.

But the true Buddha is not a human body; it is Enlightenment. A human body must die, but the Wisdom and Enlightenment will exist forever in the truth of the Dharma and in the Practice of the Dharma. Those who see merely my body do not truly see me. Only those who accept my teachings truly see me.

During the last forty-five years of my life, I have withheld nothing from my teachings. There is no secret teaching, no hidden meaning; everything has been taught openly and clearly. My dear disciples, this is the end. In a moment, I shall pass into Parinirvana. This is my final instruction."

(From the Teachings of the Buddha)

The preceding introductory passage describes the last days in the life of the historical Buddha, Sakyamuni. It is said that the Buddha passed away quietly in the Sala Grove by Kushinagara, approximately 2,500 years ago on the full moon eve in February. Every year, we hold the Nirvana Day service in observe this event in the life of the Buddha. Here, in Steveston, the service is observed together with the February Shotsuki Memorial Service. It is a time to contemplate both the meaning of life as well as the meaning of death.

What exactly was the Buddha trying to tell us when he told his disciples, "Those who see merely my body do not truly see me. Only those who accept my teachings truly see me"? In this very famous passage, the Buddha was trying to point out that true tranquility comes about when we find the truth that transcends that which is impermanent. In our modern society, a vast majority seek out happiness in things that are transient. Whether it be physical happiness, fame, or fortune, in the larger picture of life and death, all are fleeting and impermanent. Even in his final moments on this earth, the Buddha was teaching us of the greater oneness that transcends the egocentric self. A teaching which continues to ring true some 2,500 years after the passing of the Buddha.

Please join us in our services to share in the sacred teachings of the Buddha Dharma.

In Gassho,
Grant Ikuta, minister



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the Steveston
Buddhist Temple

Helen Hama
Emiko Inoue

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



FUJINKAI NEWS

Hiroko Yoshihara

We are now into the second month of 2023. How quickly time passes! Dana Day will be held on February 19 followed by the Fujinkai AGM. Bento lunch will be provided to those who attend. On February 26, the Temple AGM will be held at 1 pm. Please note these two dates.

Following the clean up after the Hoonko lunch on January 22, the ladies met to discuss manju making by the toban. Each toban will arrange a class on making a specific type of manju. Those who are interested are encouraged to contact the toban leaders (Itoko, June or Hiroko K.). Also younger Fujinkai and non members will be asked to join a toban or become more active in the tasks of the group. The toban structure was also discussed.

JSBTC Women' Federation Fundraising Project

A package of 4 blank note cards are available for \$10.00 from Steveston Fujinkai.

Featured are a photograph of calla lilies by Ted Akune and sketches by Reverend

Izumi and member of the Calgary Buddhist Temple.

Hoonko Service with In-person Participation

On the weekend of January 21st and 22nd the Hoonko Service, honoring the memorial for Shinran Shonin, was observed for the first time in 3 years with in person participation. We were very happy to have Rev. Yoshimichi Ouchi from the Toronto

Buddhist Temple join us in person for the weekend. Ouchi Sensei was our guest for last year's Hoonko as well, but due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, he was only able to join via Zoom link. It was so much nicer having him actually join us for the whole weekend. Sensei led a wonderful lecture on the meaning and the beauty of sutra chanting. This was followed by an evening of fellowship with the Hoonko Eve Potluck dinner. During the Hoonko Service on Sunday, sensei provided heart felt and thought provoking dharma talks in both English and Japanese. Thank you Ouchi Sensei for joining us for the weekend. Also, a special thank you to the Fujinkai ladies who prepared a delicious Hoonko luncheon following the Sunday service. Ouchi Sensei said it was the first time for him to try the legendary Steveston Shoyu Wieners and his comments were that it's a much better way of eating wieners than in a hotdog.

Steveston Buddhist Temple Annual General Meeting Sunday, February 26th at 1:00 pm

Please join us on the afternoon of Sunday, February 26th at 1:00 pm for our Annual General Meeting. The AGM is the most important meeting for our membership to attend. It is an opportunity for you to learn how the temple operations are proceeding, but just as importantly, your attendance is an expression of support for the board members who are sacrificing their time and effort to ensure the smooth running of the temple. We hope to see you at the AGM.

In Gassho,
Steveston Buddhist Temple

Moe No Kai Keiko Go

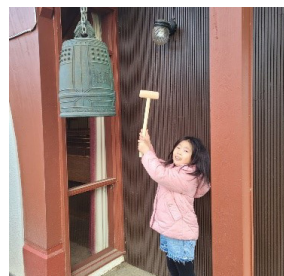
Our first Moe No-Kai in 2023 was held on Thursday, Jan. 19th and wow we had 24 seniors attending in total. After listening to Rev. Grant's interesting Dharma talk, we were able to hold a very exciting morning. First, we would like to announce that a new ukulele group has been formed by three members from Moe No-Kai just recently. How wonderful!!

We still don't have a name for this ukulele group but these three members got along and played so well, it is hard to believe they are only beginners. Along with ukulele, the seniors sang three Japanese winter songs as well as a birthday song to celebrate few seniors whose birthdays are in January. Then with Setsubun coming on its way on Feb. 3rd, we also played games relating Setsubun with Fuku-mame (Lucky beans) and balloons. Seniors were so energetic and hyper playing the game; we had hard time stopping them. It was also one of the seniors' birthday so we had a surprise birthday cake and some Valentine baking goods from a volunteer for our lovely relaxing tea time. Thank you all for joining us. Our next Moe No-Kai will be on Thursday, Feb. 16th. It is held both in Japanese and English and anybody is welcome. Just bring \$2 and drop by to socialize with local seniors.

See you soon and let's have fun together.

New Year' New Year's Eve and New Year's Day Celebrations at the Temple

New Year's Eve Bell Ringing and New Year's Day Services were well attended with close to 170 people coming out to either ring out the old year or to welcome in the new year. For this year, Mr. Kan Ogata graciously built the Kado Matsu New Year's Ornament which is traditionally placed at the entrance of a house. The Kado Matsu usually has elements of Sho (松) or pine tree, Chiku (竹) or bamboo, and Bai (梅) or Plum tree. The pine tree symbolizes longevity, the bamboo is for strength, and the plum is for good fortune.



Journey into Exile

In observance of Hoonko, Shinran has made known the great path in which every individual is truly free. This great path includes Shonin's Journey into Exile. It was on the 16th day of the third month of 1207, at the age of 35, that Shinran was exiled to Echigo in the northern province of Niigata. Likewise, his teacher, Honen, at age 76 was exiled to Tosa on the island of Shikoku. They were both stripped of their robes and kesa and consigned to the journey to the most remote, almost inhabitable, areas where living conditions were most severe. Both had their names expunged from the government files and given prisoners names. Shinran's name was changed to Yoshizane Fujii, a common criminal.

The monks, led by Gedatsubo Jokei of Kasagi (a village near Kyoto) had complained to the Imperial Government of the unorthodox practice - the recitation of the Nembutsu, Shinran and Honen were engaged in. Their practice had taught there was no discrimination between young and old, good and evil, wealth and non-wealth. What was most important was that the teaching had caught the interest of the "commoners", readily understood and deeply admired by every class of people. Going against the precepts of the Tendai taught by the monks in Mt. Hiei, the centre of Buddhist practice, was heretical. Hence the exile.

From Kyoto, Shinran was taken by guards on a palanquin to Fukui and loaded onto a tiny rowboat in the cold of winter with heavy rains and huge tides. "From this place we send you on by boat," the unfriendly Kyoto guard retorted. "If you make it to Echigo, give your documents to Lord Ogihara, the government official in Kotogahama. That village is the headquarters for Echigo. It's not much of a place I can tell you. Known for terrible winters, miserable springs and the hottest summers, Echigo is nothing like Kyoto!" (Even today, rowboating in the treacherous Japan Sea, around Wajima, the most easterly point of Japan, and into Kotogahama Bay would indeed be very perilous.)

As he boarded the rowboat, the guard looked with curiosity at Shinran and asked him "this Nembutsu way, is it worth giving up all you had, your status as a monk, and losing your name as a highborn consort and the civilized life of the capital?" This question hit the heart of what Shinran had been asking himself. His answer came without hesitation, "Of course I resent having to part from my wife and child and I will miss the civilized life of the capital and the support of my teacher, Honen, and friends." And, without forethought, he spontaneously gave the crux of his answer, "You must understand what Nembutsu means to me. It is life itself, the meaning of my life. No imperial edict, no exile can take away that from me." One can truly and most sincerely understand the conviction that Shinran had in the Nembutsu.

His banishment only served to open the door for Shinran to reach out and cultivate the barren spiritual fields elsewhere. From Echigo, he left for Kanto, a region just north of Tokyo.

Twenty years ago, Itoko and I, retraced Shinran's footsteps from Kyoto to Fukui and to Wajima and from there through Toyama into Naoetsu, the main village of the then Echigo. Our journey was however by different means - bus and train, not by foot, palanquin and rowboat.

Arriving in Kokubu, the temple in which Shinran had spent his five years, I could hardly restrain my tears while I stood there recalling Shinran's Journey into Exile.

In Gassho, Roy Akune



OBITUARY



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

Michael Masaru Sokugawa Dec 4, 2022	88 Years Old
Shigeru Jack Harada Jan 12, 2023	103 Years Old

FEBRUARY 2023 MEMORIAL SERVICE (Please bring your "Homyo")

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

MARCH 2023 MEMORIAL SERVICE (Please bring your "Homyo")

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



STEVESTON Buddhist Temple

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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

DONATIONS & Memberships

The Steveston Buddhist Temple sincerely appreciates and thanks the following for their generous donations: All donations deposited after January 25, 2023 will be announced in the next newsletter. Any donations with notations stating that they are in memory of several individuals, these names will be acknowledged in the month that the cheque was deposited. If you wish to have the donations acknowledged in the newsletter corresponding with a particular Shotsuki month, we ask that you make donations during that actual Shotsuki memorial month. 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て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(\$3271.70): Akune Roy & Itoko, Akune Ted & Rose, Araki Linda, Aulard-Macler Marie, Cameron Mari & Huston, Chow Nobu & Suezone, Hama Helen, Ikuta June, Ikuta Lester & Mickey, Ikuta Roland, Ikuta Teruko, Inouye Emiko, Kurita Yoshie, Miyagi Misako, Morishita Elmer, Nakanishi Mike & Frances, Oda Jennifer, Point Grey Secondary School, Ryan Larry & Jeanne, Satosono Sam & Aya, Sugimoto Nori, Takayama Kimiko, Turnbull Kaoru, Watanabe Keiko, Yasui-Davies Laureen, Yesaki Tom, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko, Anonymous

Nokotsudo donation: Nariwa Sakie

Naijin Flower: Nishi Kayoko

Ossaisen donation: Anonymous

Bonenkai donation (\$415): Anzai June, Grant Peter & Wendy, Kaita Alan, Kawamoto Hiroko, Kawamoto Mary, Murakami Lori, Nakatsuru Sherry, Rennie John, Ward Ryoko, Yoshioka Stan, Anonymous

Shotsuki services(\$3957.47):

January: Akune Roy & Itoko, Baumann Elaine, Butler Linda, Colpitts Donna, Domai Kiyoko, Domai Koji, England Carole, Esson Karen, Go Keiko, Iwata Genevieve, Hamada Satoshi, Hamada Midori, Kimura Mitsuo, Kawaguchi Julie, Kemp Norine, Kimura George, Kimura Sueko, King Hiroko, Kojima Jim, Kokubo Alice, Kuramoto Isao, Kuramoto June, Kuramoto Martin & Elsie, Lum Hitomi & George, Matsubara Ken, Matsuo Ken & Akiko, Morimoto A., Morimoto Cathy, Morimoto John, Mukai Dianne, Mukai Henry, Mukai Don & Shioko, Mukai Tom, Murao Ray, Nadiger Josy, Nakano Alison, Nevins Julie, Niguma Kazuko, Nishi Eric, Nishi Julie, Nishi Susan, Niwatsukino Family, Nomura Dan & Colleen, Nomura Mark & Chris, Nomura-Rejto Cathy, Obayashi Jo-Ann, O'Brien Audrey, Okabe Mary, Quan Toshiko, Ryan Larry & Jeanne, Sakai Alan, Sakai Michael, Sakamoto Bud, Sakamoto-Singh Crystal, Sakiyama Butch & Marilyn, Sakiyama Nobby & Liz, Sameshima Masumi, Sameshima Raymond & Famey, Sameshima Teresa, Sameshima Yoshiko, Sano Masayoshi, Slye J., Tabata Tosh, Takasaki Charlotte, Takasaki Sandra, Takeuchi Joanne, Takeuchi Ken & Sachiko, Tanaka Emiko, Tasaka Kazu & Chic, Tasaka Rick & Naomi, Teraguchi Jean, Tipple Pat & Chris, Yamanaka Sachiyo, Yesaki Arthur, Yesaki Tom, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko

December: Charney Irene, Kokubo Alice, Nishi Greg & Mary, Sakiyama Butch & Marilyn

Major Services(\$2350):

Hoonko: Akune Robert & Molly, Akune Roy & Itoko, Akune Ted & Rose, Chow Nobu & Suezone, Hamaura Dean, Hamaura Misaye, Hashimoto Junichi & Atsumi, Hirose May, Ikuta Denise, Ikuta Kevin & Karen, Ikuta Kuni & June, Ikuta Lester & Mickey, Ikuta Teruko, Iwata Genevieve, Kokubo Alice, Kurita Yoshie, Maede Judith, Maede Toyoko, Maruno Maya, Morizawa Chiyoko, Morizawa Sazare, Nakanishi Mike & Frances, Nakatsu Tsuyoshi & Chizuru, Niguma Kazuko, Nishi Kazuko, Nishi Kayoko, Okabe Mary, Oye Hanako, Sakai Marge, Sakamoto Bud, Sameshima Yoshiko, Suzuki Kent, Tabata Tosh, Takeuchi Ken & Sachiko, Tani Kiyoshi & Mutsumi, Toyoda Miyuki, Watanabe Keiko, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko

Shushore: Akune Roy & Itoko, Chow Nobu & Suezone, Dardis Dana, Go Keiko, Ikuta Teruko, Kaita Alan, Kaita Hiroko, Kakehi Tomoko, Koyanagi Susie, Oki Hiroshi, Suzuki Kent, Tomihiro Kazuko, Watanabe Naoko, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko, Anonymous

Jodo-e service(Bohdi day): Akizuki Eiko, Hashimoto Junichi & Atsumi, Nishi Kayoko, Saito Tokiko

Eitai-kyo service: Koyanagi Susie, Tomihiro Kazuko

Eshinniko service(according to Fujinkai list): Akune Ted & Rose, Hamanishi Betty, Kariya Florence, Tani Mutsumi & Kiyoshi, Mizushima Karen, Iwata Genevieve

Funerals & Memorial services (\$5245) In memory of the late:

Reg Matsumura: Matsumura Laverne, Kada-Mckellar Leanna, Oye Hanako

Michael Sokugawa: Horii Fumi, Mayede Allan & Keiko

Fred John: Hibi Mika, Kamikura Joyce

Koji Mori: Maede Judith, Maede Toyoko, Sangelo Diane, Christopher & Michael, Holmes Ruby, Tkachuk Dave

49th day memorial service of the late Koji Mori: Maede Judith

49th day memorial service of the late Sakie Nariwa: Nariwa Sakie, Takemoto Yutaka

49th day memorial service of the late Yoshiko Koyanagi: Maede Toyoko
Sakie Nariwa: Miyazaki Patti, Yoshida Christine

Eiji Tsukijima: Tsukijima Judy

K. Onouye: Onouye Shigenari, Onouye Hideko

Takako Suga: Mehl Rainer, Suga Riku, Suga Tai

Y. Beaton: Onouye Shigenari, Onouye Hideko

Chieko Kondo: Dolsen Yasuko

Yasuo & Minako Nakano: Nakano Sheila S.

Akira Hikida: Hikida Sumiko

Father Mitsuo Koyanagi: Koyanagi Susie

Isao Nishi 7th year: Nishi Kayoko

Nobuo Domai 23rd year: Quan Toshiko

Brother Hiroshi Niwatsukino 28th year: Koyanagi Susie, Tomihiro Kazuko

Toyo Nishi 33rd year: Nishi Kayoko

Membership 2022/23 paid: Hamano Heidi

** An apology to Mrs. Toyoko Maede for the late announcement.

お寺で大晦日と元旦のお祝い

大晦日は除夜の鐘が鳴り響き、100人近くが鐘を撞きに來られました。また、元旦礼拝には30人近くがお参りして、その後も初詣に参拝される方が次々と來られてにぎやかなお正月となりました。今年はおガタ・カン様が、お正月の「門松」の飾りを丁寧に作ってお寺に寄付されました。門松には通常、松竹梅が飾られます。松の木は長寿を象徴し、竹は強さ、そして梅は幸運を象徴しています。「今年もお寺に良い年が訪れるように飾ってほしい」とおっしゃって、オガタさんが持って來られました。どうもありがとうございました。

3年ぶりのお寺での参拝者入りの
報恩講法要

1月21日～22日の週末に3年ぶりの参拝者入りの報恩講法要が盛大に行われました。トロント仏教会より大内祐真先生をご講師として招待させていただきました。先生は去年も来るはずだったのですが、コロナウィルスパンデミック規制により、去年はZoomリンクでしか参加できませんでした。今回は実際にこちらまで来ていただくことができ、とても良かったと思います。土曜日にはお経を称える「声明」の意味と美しさについての講演会が行われました。日曜日の報恩講法要では、先生が英語と日本語で心のお話をされました。大内先生、お忙しい中ご参加いただきありがとうございました。また、日曜日の礼拝の後に美しい報恩講のおときを用意してくれた婦人会の皆様にお礼を申し上げます。大内先生は、伝説のステーキレストラン醤油ウィナーを試すのは初めてだと言ひ、ホットドッグよりも美味しいとおっしゃっていました。



お釈迦様の最期

弟子たちよ、今はわたしの最期の時である。しかし、この死は肉体の死であることを忘れてはならない。肉体は父母より生まれ、食によって保たれるものであるから、病み、傷つき、こわれることはやむを得ない。仏の本質は肉体ではない。さとりでである。肉体はここに滅びても、さとりは永遠に法と道とに生きている。だから、わたしの肉体を見る者がわたしを見るのではなく、わたしの教えを知る者こそわたしを見る。わたしの亡き後は、わたしの説き遺した法があなたたちの師である。この法を保ち続けてわたしに仕えるようにするがよい。弟子たちよ、わたしはこの人生の後半45年間に於いて、説くべきものはすべて説き終わり、なすべきことはすべてなし終わった。わたしにはもはや秘密はない。内もなく、外もなく、すべてみな完全に説きあかし終わった。弟子たちよ、今やわたしの最期である。わたしは今より涅槃に入るであろう。これがわたしの最後の教えである。

(仏教聖典より)

早くも二月となりました。まだもう少し冬の寒さが続くらしいので、皆様も風邪をひかないように注意なさってください。さて、二月と言えばお釈迦様が入滅された時を偲び例年二月の祥月法要と一緒に涅槃会法要を行わせていただいています。上記の文は最後の教えとしてよく知られています。「わたしの肉体を見る者がわたしを見るのではなく、わたしの教えを知る者こそわたしを見る」は私たちに人生で何が本当に大切であることを示されています。ここでお釈迦様が使われた「肉体」という言葉はおそらく社会制度の中で名誉や地位などばかりを気にする生き方を示しているのではないかと思います。つまり、今の世の中の私たちが求めている幸せは「肉体的」の幸せであり、幸せになるどころか、逆にそれを求めるために毎日火の車に乗っているように忙しく過ごす人生になっていないかと仏陀はおしえようとしていたのではないのでしょうか？ところで、「忙しい」という漢字の解説に私が留学していたころの真宗学教授で、のちには龍谷大学学長まで勤めてこられた信楽峻麿先生が『真宗入門』という著作の中にこのように書いていました：

「忙」という漢字は、「心」(りっしんべん)に「亡」という字を合わせて、心がなくなっている状態を示しております。現代人はお互いに毎日忙しい日を送っておりますが、忙しいとは、私たちが心を失っている姿を意味しているということです。またこの「心」と「亡」を立てに並べると、「忘れる」という字になります。忙しい生活とは、また何か大切なものを忘れていく状態でもあるということです。

私の生活を見ても、最近「忙しい毎日だな」とよく愚痴を言ってしまう。でも、そのような私であるからこそ、阿弥陀様のお念仏のみ教えがあるのだと示してくださったのが親鸞聖人でした。親鸞聖人著作の高僧和讃の中に：

「煩惱にまなこさへられて
授けの光明みざれども
大日ものうきことなくて
つねにわが身をてらすなり」
(源信大師についての御和讃)

と書かれています。まさに、どんなに忙しい毎日であっても阿弥陀様の大悲は常に私たちを照らして、常につまれていること、涅槃会法要を通して再度教わったような気がいたします。

合掌 生田真見



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スティーブストン仏教会 会年次総会

2月26日（日）午後1:00

2月26日（日）の午後1時からお寺の年次総会がありますので、皆様是非お越しください。総会は会員の皆様にとって一番大事な集会です。お寺がどのように運営されているのか、これから何をやる計画なのか等を知ることが出来ます。さらに、皆様が出席することで、ボランティアとして活動している役員の方たちの日々の努力をねぎらい、励ます事にもなります。またほかの会員の皆様ともお話できる機会でもあります。皆様にお会いできるのを楽しみにしています。

合掌
スティーブストン仏教会

萌の会
郷 恵子

今年最初の萌の会は沢山の方がお見えになりました。生田先生の興味深い法話を聞いた後、とて賑やかな萌の会を開催することが出来ました。まず今年から萌の会のメンバーの3人により新たなウクレグーが結成されました。この御三方はまるで長年一緒に演奏していたかのように息が合い初心者とは思えないぐさの腕前でした。未だグループ名は決まっていませらんが、このウクレグーの伴奏に合わせ懐かし日をお迎える方々合唱しました。更に1月にお誕生そをお迎える方々分が近いので『福豆箸つまみ競争』をして2月3日の鬼の風船と白の福の風船で『鬼は外、福は内』ゲームもしました。『福豆箸つまみ競争』は集ち力を鍛え、また風船ゲームは汗ばむぐらいの適度な運動になりました。まるで子供のようにはしゃぎストップをかけても止まらないぐらいうる盛りの風船ゲームでは、とて皆さんの平均年齢が80代後半に思えないぐらいうる元気だったので圧倒されてしまいた付きバレンタインベアキングとお誕生日をお迎えしシニアの方が持つて来て下さったタイムをエディンケイした。その後はフラックスでお茶を有難うございました。今月も楽しい萌の会を是非お友達をお誘いいらして下さい。また楽しい時間を過ごしましょう。



婦人会からのお知らせ 吉原ヒロコ

2023年も、もうすでに二月目に入りました。まったく時間のたつのは早いですね。きたる2月19日にダーナデー法要があり、その後で婦人会総会があります。総会の参加者にはお弁当の昼食

が出ます。2月26日にはお寺の総会が1:00からあります。この二つの日付を書き留めておいてください。

1月22日の報恩講の後片付けに続いてお当番によるお饅頭づくりを話し合いました。それぞれの当番の人たちは、特定のお饅頭づくりの講習会をすることになりました。ご興味がお有りの方は当番のリーダーの方（イトコさん、ジュンさん、ヒロコKさん）にお電話して下さい。さらに、お若い婦人会会員や会員でない方もお当番に参加するか、お当番の仕事にもっと積極的に参加して下さいようお願いいたします。お当番グループの構成についても話し合いました。



JSBTC婦人会の資金集め

スティーブストン仏教会の婦人会が、中に何も書いてないカードを4枚一組で10ドルで売っています。外側のアートは、わが仏教会会長の阿久根テッドさんのカラー(calla lilies)の写真と、泉先生とカルガリー仏教会会員のスケッチです。



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。

ソクワ・マイケル・マサ様	2022年	12月	4日	寂	88歳
原田 茂・ジャック様	2023年	1月	12日	寂	103歳