



BODHI MIND



Vancouver Buddhist Temple vancouverbuddhistchurch.ca
220 Jackson Ave., Vancouver, BC, V6A 3B3 March 2009
(604) 253-7033 Issue 330

“The elbow does not bend outward” 2

This month’s Dharma message is continued from last month. Previously, I shared a part of the Dharma Message given by Dr. Rev. Taitetsu Unno at the Opening Service of the NW Buddhist Convention in Portland, Oregon in February. Joanne was there, so I asked her to write a summary of what Unno Sensei talked about. Her article includes a re-cap of what I wrote in last month’s Bodhi Mind Message, as well as Unno Sensei’s interpretation, so please read her article, and hopefully, a month was enough time for you to reflect and think about the question: “*What is karma?*” and Dr. DT Suzuki’s answer: “*The elbow does not bend outward.*”

When I heard Unno Sensei’s interpretation of “The elbow does not bend outward”, it made sense to me. Unno Sensei began to think of Dr. Suzuki’s answer as a metaphor for karmic limitation. We have freedom to move; -yes, but only in certain ways; the elbow bends, but only in one direction. It is a *koan*, a Zen question, dealing with freedom and limitation. Unno Sensei’s answer and his explanation make perfect sense, but for the first few weeks after I heard Joanne’s re-telling of Unno Sensei’s story, I must admit, something about it left me somehow unsatisfied...

Meanwhile, I have started private study sessions with our members who are taking a correspondence course from the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, California. We currently have two members, Joanne Yuasa and Gordon Meugens enrolled. The intention of our study sessions is not that I teach or give lectures to them, but rather, it is an opportunity for me to study and learn together with them. Although I say it is a learning opportunity for me, still, I am asked questions such as; “What is Dependent Origination?”, “What is the Middle Path?”, “What are *Jiriki* and *Tariki*?”. I try to give explanations to them, and we help each other to try to understand by sharing our own examples or experiences. Yet sometimes, they don’t seem to fully understand, and I say to them, “Leave it for now. You may get it later when the time comes.” It may take a day, a month, a year, or more, but I feel that eventually we start to understand the true essence of the Dharma.

Siddhartha started to seek the truth when he was twenty-nine years of age, practicing and studying many different methods and teachings. He eventually found his own path, which led to his Enlightenment at the age of thirty-five, and from that time on, was referred to as Sakyamuni Buddha. Shinran had his ordination at the age of nine, and he spent twenty years training and studying Buddhism on Mount Hiei. However, Shinran found something lacking and eventually, changed the course of his life by descending the mountain. He was guided by Honen to the *Nembutsu* path, which ultimately led to the spreading of his understanding of the Buddha-dharma, as a Teaching, among the populace.

Both Siddhartha and Shinran had many teachers along their paths towards understanding Truth, but it took many years of personal reflection for each, to draw their own conclusions.

I would like to use the “three-course meal” as a metaphor for an exchange between a learner and a teacher.

(continued on page 4)

Dharma School

Winter weather hung on into the month of March, but with April we look forward to spring flowers, warmer weather, and the celebration of the birth of Baby Buddha. The flower arch depicting Lumbini's Garden will once again be blooming over the statue of Baby Buddha during Hanamatsuri service on April 12th. Dharma School students will be able to celebrate the occasion twice; once in Steveston with their students on April 5th, and again the following week at our otera, this time with Steveston students, teachers, and parents as our guests. Both services for Dharma School will begin at 10:00 am. All children and families are invited to join us at this joyous service.

At the end of April, four of our teachers/staff will be attending the Federation of Dharma School Teachers Seminar in California. We wish them an enjoyable and inspiring weekend of learning and fellowship with our American counterparts.

As promised last month, here is the conclusion to the quilt making project of Lumbini Class and photos of their finished products. Thank you to Maya Kurita and Lumbini Class for sharing their class activity with everyone.

Part 3 = A quilt is comprised of 3 layers-- the top or front, the middle batting (usually cotton or poly-cotton batting), and the back. Together, we call this a 'quilt sandwich'. Each of these 2 types of quilt blocks were made into individual quilt sandwiches. This was done by using cotton dishcloths for the front and back. The quilt blocks were sewn on to a 'front' dishcloth. Then to keep all the layers together, they were machine quilted. We got the children to actually use the sewing machine-- the children 'guided' the fabric through the machine; the adult teacher stepped on the sewing machine pedal since the children are too short when sitting in the chair and not too coordinated to do both at once. The children were 'good' sewers. It was not necessary that they sew in a straight line. In fact, we sort of encouraged them to sew crooked lines. The blocks look more fun this way.

Each child made 12 quilt sandwiches. One quilt sandwich measures approximately 12" square.

However, the actual joining the quilt sandwiches into the quilt (3 X 4 block layout) was done by me at home.

The quilts are a bit 'heavy' because of the weight of the dishcloth cotton. But they are 'durable', I think. I think that the end result looks great. We hope to show you pictures in the next Bodhi Mind issue.

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Thank you—Arigato Gozaimashita

On behalf of the past Board of Directors and myself, Thank you for your ongoing support.

I am pleased to present to you Frank Hamanishi, our new President. I know you will treat him with the honour and respect you have given me. As you have experienced, we all know Frank is a hard working and fair person who will represent our Sangha with the utmost respect.

I am honoured to present to you our new Board of Directors for the next two years: March 2009- March 2011. Our Executive Board consists of myself and Greg Chor as vice presidents, Henry Low continues to be our Treasurer as well as Dr Bob Akune as secretary. The following Board members are: Molly Akune, Martha Banno, Lorna Bishop, John Harada, Bill Kajiwara, Mary Kawamoto, Kay Komori, Min Koyanagi, Terry Koyanagi, Izumi Low, Harry Minato, Karen Mizushima, Harry Mizuta, Tsutomu Omoto, Noriko Sugimoto, Miki Tanaka, Shizuo Tanaka, Roy Tatsumi, Kaz Yoshida and Joanne Yuasa.

During my humbling experience as your past president of 10 years, I was most honoured to represent our Sangha and Temple. As I step down from this position, I will still continue to provide support in any way I can. Thank you for your ongoing encouragement throughout the years.

I have so much appreciation for all of you and your families who have so graciously dedicated your time, talents and efforts in supporting our various events at our Temple. Thank you also to all our Toban groups who work diligently maintaining the Temple throughout the year.

Once again, we were honoured to host the Takanawadai High School Band at our Temple. The 99 students entertained us with their symphony of beautifully choreographed music, dancing and singing. Their visit with us included a very welcomed and familiar Japanese curry lunch and home baked desserts. Every one who attended enjoyed this energetic and enthusiastic group.

Once again, we hosted our annual Spring Bazaar. Thank you to all who participated with preparations before, during and after. For everyone who came to visit and purchase our home made treats, baked goods, plants or household items, your support is appreciated. Please keep in mind, each successful event we host, is due to all your shared talents, time and efforts. Accolades go to all of you.

Life presents us many challenges and changes and I am honoured to take them on one by one. The future months ahead are filled with many social gatherings, including our Toban Party, the 105th Anniversary of our Temple and Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial events.

With hopes of you and your families ongoing support, once again, Thank you, Domo arigato goziamashita for your dedication to our Temple and sharing your life with my family, and continuing in spreading the Buddha Dharma.

A quick glance at the month of April, our Temple will be hosting:

April 10 – Public Lecture at 7:00pm with Shigenori Makino from Toronto Buddhist Temple

April 12 – Hanamatsuri/Hatsumairi/Keiroukai & Installation of Officers

April 18 – Sakura (Cherry Blossom) Festival –VBT open to the public

April 19 – Shotsuki/Memorial Service

In Gassho
David Otori

TOBAN #1

As you may recall, the Toban system (means “duty”) is the way our Temple is able to maintain our facilities and provide services such as meals for special services. Every one, members and non-members can be a participant on a toban team. Members are automatically assigned to a toban group. We are all responsible for the maintenance and operations of our Temple, which includes clean-up days at the end of each month. Our toban 1 is responsible for the months of April and May and would welcome your assistance on the following dates:

8:00am - **Sunday April 12** – Hanamatsuri-Keiroukai Preparations
9:00am - **Sunday April 19** – Shotsuki Lunch Preparations
10:00am - **Saturday May 2** - Toban Meeting & Lunch Preparations
9:00am - **Sunday May 10** - Gotan-e Lunch Preparations

If your name appears on the list below, please come and help at the Temple, regardless of whether or not you are contacted by telephone. We appreciate your dedication and support.

If you have any questions, please call your team captains Lorna Bishop- 604-931-8796 or Greg Chor 604-613-3100.

Mrs. Kikuye Akitaya	Mr. & Mrs. Yoshio Fujimoto	Mr. & Mrs. Kazu Komori
Mr. Sadao Amano	Mr. & Mrs. Joe Fukushima	Mr. & Mrs. Terry Koyanagi
Mr. & Mrs. Takeru Araki	Mrs. Shizue Hamaguchi	Mr. & Mrs. John Nakata
Mrs. Tsuki Aratake	Mrs. Francis Hamakawa	Mrs. Miyoko Nose
Mrs. Itsuko Arita	Mrs. Mary Hamakawa	Mr. Edward Oyama
Mr. & Mrs. Minoru Asaoka	Mrs. Nancy Hamanishi	Mrs. Marie Oyama
Mrs. Yukiko Asaoka	Mr. & Mrs. Yutaka Harada	Mr. & Mrs. Yukihiro Shoji
Mr. & Mrs. Brad Bishop	Mrs. Sayoko Hattori	Mr. & Mrs. Kanji Suga
Mrs. Haruyo Chiba	Mr. & Mrs. Kotaro Hayashi	Mrs. Etsuko Takata
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Chor	Mr. & Mrs. Noboru Hayashi	Mr. Roy Tatsumi
Mr. & Mrs. Denny Enjo	Mr. Tim Hirata	

(Sensei's message, continued)

If a question is the appetizer, and the answer is the dessert, then reflection would be considered the main course. When I was told Unno Sensei's conclusions on “The elbow does not bend outward”, I was given the appetizer and then immediately, the dessert. While they were both delicious, I am sure you would agree that a meal without a main course would be unsatisfactory.

When we read or hear the Buddha-dharma, or read Shinran's works, we are all enjoying a taste of the dessert. However, if we have our own experiences, and allow the passage of time, we may be able to deepen our *own* understanding and make better sense of the Buddha-dharma. I was given Dr. Unno's conclusion, but I would have liked to have spent more time to “chew over” the answer he was given by Dr. Suzuki, and to try to seek my own conclusion. It may have ended up the same as Dr. Unno's, or it may have been different. Either way, it would have been my own answer, with which I would have been fully satisfied.

Namo Amida Butsu
Tatsuya Aoki

WEST COAST LECTURE SERIES 2009
On Jodo Shinshu Buddhism
Sponsored by Living Dharma Centre

Date	Time	Presented by:	Place of Lecture
<u>Spring Lecture Series</u> Thursday, April 2, 9, 16, 30	7:00 pm	Rev. Grant Ikuta <i>Buddhism for Beginners</i>	Steveston Buddhist Temple
Saturday, April 4	2:00 pm	Rev. Charles Hasegawa Stockton Buddhist Temple, CA	Steveston Buddhist Temple
Friday, April 10	7:00 pm	Rev. Shigenori Makino Toronto Buddhist Temple, ON <i>The Way of Boundless Freedom—Unique Characteristics of Jodo Shinshu</i>	Vancouver Buddhist Temple
Saturday, July 4	2:00 pm	Rev. Yoshihide Matsubayashi Seattle Buddhist Temple, WA	Steveston Buddhist Temple
Friday, July 10	7:00 pm	Rev. Daien Soga Kahului Hongwanji Mission, HA	Vancouver Buddhist Temple
<u>Fall Lecture Series</u> Thurs, Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	7:00 pm	Rev. Grant Ikuta <i>Shinran & Shoshinge</i>	Steveston Buddhist Temple

Living Dharma Centre —www.livingdharmacentre.ca, Dr Rev Leslie Kawamura-Director
Steveston Buddhist Temple- 4360 Garry Street, Richmond BC 604 277-2323
 e-mail: sbt@shawlink.ca, www.stevestonbuddhisttemple.ca, Rev Grant Ikuta-Minister
Vancouver Buddhist Temple-220 Jackson Avenue, Vancouver BC 604 253-7033
 e-mail: vbc.admin@gmail.com, www.vancouverbuddhisttemple.ca, Rev Tatsuya Aoki-Minister
Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple- 28941 Haverman Rd, Bradner BC 604 856-2078
 Mail: PO Box 12, Mt Lehman Station, Abbotsford BC

VANCOUVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE
105TH ANNIVERSARY
GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, June 20, 2009
 Musqueam Golf Course
 3904 W. 51st Ave., Vancouver, BC

Tee Off starting at 1:00 pm

Green Fee, Dinner, & Prizes—\$70.00

Everyone come out!
 Join in the fun and enjoy a game of golf.

Please contact:
 Min Koyanagi at (604) 433-3119
 Or the Church Office at (604) 253-7033

Mottainai My Ohashi
(Chopsticks) on Sale!!!

1 Set—\$10 2 Sets—\$18 3 Sets—\$25

Bring your own *ohashi* to avoid using *waribashi*
 (wooden disposable chopsticks) and be
 environmentally friendly!!! *The money raised*
will be donated towards the 750th
Commemorative Service of Shinran Shonin



Keiroukai Celebration on April 12, 2009, at our Temple

We wish to acknowledge 75th birthdays as well as each ensuing year, to the oldest members of our Sangha. We would also like to recognize anyone who will be celebrating their 100th year. If you know of any of our members who will be celebrating their 100th year, please contact the VBT office at **604 253-7033** by **April 5th**.

Keiroukai is an annual celebration to recognize the senior members of our sangha. We pay respects to those who have survived difficult times to sustain our wonderful teachings. Under very trying economic times and during periods in our history of ethnic differences as shown by the evacuation of all people of Japanese origin during World War II. Our seniors not only survived but succeeded to make enriched lives for themselves and for their families. They carried the same energy and spirit of "Gabare" to sustain and further the growth of Shinshu teachings to all of us. For that we are thankful and the Keiroukai occasion is our way to say "domo arigato gozaimashita."



"Kiji No Iwai"

This celebration is for those having their 77th birthday in 2009. The written Japanese character "Ki" resembles the number "77". The character "Ki" means "joy". In the Japanese tradition gifts of fans, tea ceremony towels or mochi with the character "Ki" written on it were given to friends and family members turning 77 years of age.

"Beiju No Iwai"

The 88th year birthday is celebrated because the number 88 resembles the Japanese character (Kanji) "bei" which means "rice". Rice in all of Asia is considered the staff of life.

In the case of these congratulatory celebrations (Oiwai), words of congratulation for long life are written on special envelopes with pictures of cranes and turtles, symbols of long life. The envelope is bound with special paper strings of gold and silver or red and white called Mizuhiki.

Hatsumairi April 12, 2009

Hatsumairi in Japanese means "First visit to Temple" and is a ceremony in which infants are formally presented to Buddha. At our Temple, this happy occasion is celebrated during Family Service which will take place on Sunday April 12, 2009 at our 10:30am Service.

We invite all infants and their proud families to take part in this joyous tradition. To register, please contact our office at 604 273-7033 or e-mail vbc.admin@gmail.com.

Pilgrimage Tour to Japan.

An early bird deadline for Vancouver Buddhist Temple 'members-only' to sign up for the tour is February 28, 2009. Starting March 1st, 2009 non-member Buddhist followers are eligible to sign up for the trip. We have openings for 25 people and therefore, urge our members and family to make application for the trip. The cost for the 14-day, 16-night pilgrimage remains at approximately \$5000.00, which includes air-fare return to Vancouver, land transportation, all accommodations, 2meals per day and admission fees to local sites. Private motor-coach tour includes: Niigata, Kanazawa, Fukui, Kyoto (3 days), Shikoku (3 days), Okayama and Tokyo. Please contact Yoshin Tamaki at Skyland Travel, 604-685-6868 or our temple, 604-253-7033.

Vancouver Buddhist Temple—Board of Directors -2009/2010

The new executive and Board of Directors has now been elected. The term extends for the two years 2009 and 2010. The changeover occurs at the time the new officers have been officially elected.

The list of committee chairperson for 2009 are shown below. We thank all of the past executive, directors, and committee chairpersons for their contribution and leadership. We look forward with renewed enthusiasm in maintaining existing programs and introducing new services. We sincerely thank Tatsuya Aoki Sensei and Yukari-san for their tireless service to our Sangha.

Mata Yoroshi Onegai Shimasu!
Robert Akune

Board of Directors: 2009- 2010 term (alphabetical order).

Molly Akune, Robert Akune, Martha Banno, Lorna Bishop, Greg Chor, Frank Hamanishi, John Harada, Bill Kajiwara, Mary Kawamoto, Kay Komori, Min Koyanagi, Terry Koyanagi, Henry Low, Izumi Low , Harry Minato, Karen Mizushima, Harry Mizuta, Dave Ohori, Tsutomu Omoto, Noriko Sugimoto, Miki Tanaka, Shizuo Tanaka, Roy Tatsumi, Kaz Yoshida and Joanne Yuasa.

Executive for 2009-2010 term:

President – Frank Hamanishi
Vice-President – Dave Ohori, Greg Chor
Treasurer – Henry Low
Secretary - Robert Akune

Resident Minister: Tatsuya Aoki Sensei

Committee Chairpersons for 2009

Spring Bazaar	Frank Hamanishi, Bob Akune	Womens' Affairs	Martha Banno
Obon	Greg Chor, Karen Mizushima	Karaoke	Shizuo Tanaka
Bodhi Mind	Lori North, Rev. Aoki	Shigin	Tei Domitsu
Dharma School	Lorna Bishop, Karen Mizushima	Website	Joanne Yuasa, Frank Hamanishi
Sunshine Committee	Min Koyanagi	Funeral	Bob Akune
Seniors	Mike Yamamoto	Shotsuki	Nori Sugimoto
Naijin	Shizuo Tanaka, Roy Tatsumi	Investments	Greg Chor
Flower Committee	Martha Banno	Operations/Maint.	Roy Tatsumi, Tsutomu Omoto
Membership	Izumi Low	Fall Bazaar	Joanne Yuasa, Dave Ohori
Activities Treasurer	Debbie Saimoto	Powell St. Festival	Greg Chor, Lorna Bishop
Toban	Tsutomu Omoto		

Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple News

Greetings from the Valley as we welcome spring after much snow over the winter.

Our Ohigan and March service was held on Saturday, March 7 followed by our Annual General Meeting. Our new Board of Director's and Executive are: Daisy Araki, Evelyen Evans (Fujinkai Treasurer), Eileen Fujita, Jenny Fujita (Secretary), Byron Kagawa, Bill Miyazaki, Amy Nagamatsu (Fujinkai President), Paige Perry, Naomi Shikaze (President), Lucy Yoshioka (Vice-President) and Stan Yoshioka. A Treasurer has yet to be determined.

A big thank you to last year's Board and Executive for doing a tremendous job. A special thank you to Lucy for her commitment and dedication as President for 3 years. Although she decided to step down as President we are fortunate that she will continue as Vice-President. Also Irene and Eileen have stepped down as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. They have worked very hard on our behalf for many years and we will continue to depend on their assistance.

As we mentioned in the last issue of the Bodhi Mind there have been on-going Tri-Temple meetings to discuss ministerial and financial responsibilities especially as it pertains to the Fraser Valley temple. The latest outcome is that Rev. Aoki will continue to be our Resident Minister but due to his heavy workload he will on occasion ask Rev. Grant Ikuta or others to conduct some of our services in his place.

Our next service will be Hanamatsuri (Buddha's birthday) on Saturday, April 11 at 2 pm. Rev. Aoki and Rev. Ikuta will both attend and the guest minister will be Rev. Shigenori Makino of the Toronto Buddhist Temple.

In gassho,
Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple

Scholarship Essay—Kyle Otori *The Role of Buddhism in My Life*

"You only lose what you cling to" Prince Siddharta

Buddhism plays a very important role in my everyday life. Although it helps during the happiest of time, such as my graduation, it is during the darkest of life's "curve balls" that these teachings have guided me out of the darkness of suffering and sorrow. Times like the passing of my jeichan and how it helped me overcome my misery and anger.

It was a few years ago but I remember how it all happened like it was yesterday. One day, out of nowhere, jeichan had a stroke. Nobody could have seen it coming. I was very shocked and visited him as soon as I was able. I thought to myself "Of course he'll get better." Slowly over the days, jeichan's state got worse and worse. Every single

day I visited him and every single day I told myself the same thing. I wanted him to stay with us forever and never leave but that is not how the world works. Everything has an impermanent nature and sure enough, I learned the hard way when jeichan eventually passed away. The passing was very hard hitting for me emotionally and I felt a whirl of emotions. I was confused, angry, but most of all, disheartened by the passing of my jeichan. Never once before did it occur to me that this might have been the time for him to go. The emotional wreck I was, I still clung on to seeing my jeichan again alive and well but of course this was not possible. I knew it was impossible but still...I

(continued, page 9)

Unno Sensei at the Northwest Convention

When I first started to delve more deeply into Jodo Shinshu, I asked Aoki Sensei to recommend some reading material. He handed me his copy of Rev. Dr. Taitezu Unno's book "*Shin Buddhism: Bits of Rubble Turn into Gold*". So having read this very inspiring work, I felt I couldn't give up a chance to see him speak in person at this year's Northwest Buddhist Convention in Portland, Oregon.

Just as he does in his books, in one of his talks of the weekend, he shared with us an episode from his own life in which he encountered the Dharma.

Unno Sensei, when he was still just a young student, was part of a youth group who had the very fortunate opportunity to have a Q & A session with the renowned Zen author and scholar, D.T. Suzuki. He asked the question, "What is Karma?" because this was a term he had heard before. Dr. Suzuki, after thinking quietly for a very long moment, responded with this one statement: "*The elbow does not bend outward.*" Unno Sensei simply thanked Dr. Suzuki, and that was the end of that exchange. It was a Zen Koan, and for years after this meeting, Unno Sensei worked on figuring out what Dr. Suzuki might have meant by this. At the Northwest Convention, he shared his conclusion with us.

Unno Sensei shared that one does not often think about the function of one's elbow, but moving it in many ways, one sees that there is no way it will bend outward. He held out his arm and bent it at the elbow many times, commenting that the elbow works best, when it is bent inwards. A strange image of my arms popped into my head when he said the elbow would be quite useless if it *could* bend outward. He wanted to demonstrate that the elbow has limitations, and we would never think of trying to bend our elbows in ways it doesn't naturally bend, because it would be terribly painful! He observed that once one realizes that the elbow only works in certain ways, one learns how to use it to its maximum potential. And so it can be with one's *self*. Unno Sensei specifically used the example of his own height; he is 5'1". He said that once he accepted that he would never be as tall as *he wanted to be*, he was no longer chasing, he just *was*. He used, several times, the phrase "affirming (affirmation of) your *karmic limitations* equals freedom"

The message I brought home with me from the Northwest Convention is that if you look honestly at yourself, and acknowledge and accept your *karmic limitations*, you are free to be the *best you* that you can be.

- Joanne Yuasa

(Scholarship essay—continued)

could not let someone so close to me just disappear.

A few days after jeichan's passing, I was looking through the photo album for pictures to use in the funeral. As I turned the pages of smiling faces from the past, I stumbled upon many of my baby pictures, and family pictures. Sure enough in every one of them was jeichan with the same grin he had on his face every single day smiling back at me. It was a bit much for me and I felt my eyes water so I looked at our happy family. I felt a tear drop from my eye and fall onto the photo album and for the first time...I smiled. A new feeling rushed through my body, not of sorrow but of pure appreciation that I had known such a great man and that the countless memories that I have shared with him would stay with me. They would remain with me forever like the photos in the album.

It is moments like this when I am very proud to be a Buddhist. Like a shining star, the teachings of the Buddha dharma guided me out of my selfish state of mind and I was finally able to put some closure on the passing of my jeichan.

SHOTSUKI (Memorial) List—April

April Shotsuki/monthly memorial service will be held on Sunday, April 19

1958

HIRAYAMA, Michiyo

1959

NAMBA

1960—50th Year

NOMURA, Yaozo

1961

HARA, Tadashi

1963

MATSUNO, Riu

TABUCHI, Kizo

1964

YONEMURA, Senzo

1967

KANEKO, Seki

SHIMIZU, Zenzo

1969

SUGIMOTO, Tome

1972

NAKASHIMA,

Yasumatsu

SAKATA, Ryoza

YAMAMOTO, Isamu

YOSHIDA

YOSHIOKA, Teruo

1973

KOBAYASHI, Isuke

YAMAGUCHI, Kiyoko

1974

SHIRAHAMA, Tomomi

1975

HASEBE, Yukio

TERADA, Kentaro

1976

EDAMURA, Fujiro

1977—33rd Year

KOYANAGI, Toru

1978

KAMATA, Genzaburo

1980

IKEDA, Toyoharu

INOUE, Yoshinobu

KOMORI, Fujihiko

MARUNO, Michiko

1981

TATEYAMA, Shigeyoshi

WAKABAYASHI, Masa

1982

HASEBE, Noburo

IWABUCHI, Shimpei

MATSUI, Sadao

TANAKA, Kiyo

1983

NUKINA, Yoshiko

1984

HAMANISHI, Fusaye

HAYAM Yoshimatsu

KADA, Fude

MIDORIKAWA, Kono

NAKANO, Raizo

1985—25th Year

HIROKADA, Shigeo

NASU, Chiyo

1986

KOMORI, Haru

NISHIKAWA, Hine

SOKUGAWA, Toshiro

1987

LEE, Kinju

OHIRA, Yu

TATEBE, Yonehiro

1988

MORIYAMA, Kenichi

WADA, Masaye

1990

ASANO, Matsue

MURATA, Miyano

1991

BANNO, Magohachi

DOI, Sumiko

GODO, Moichi

UTSUNOMIYA, Kinuye

1992

OSATO, Hiroko

TSUJI, Sumi

YADA, Katsutoshi

1993—17th Year

CHIAI, Asae

KOYANAGI, Mitsuru

TANIYAMA, Shigeru

1994

FUKUHARA, Asano

SHISHIDO, Kiyoko

TANIZAWA, Mitsuyoshi

1995

MATSUNAGA, Shigekazu

1996

KONDO, Masaru

TERAKITA, Hideo

1997—13th Year

KITANO, Yaeno

TSUJI, Tadao

1998

NISHI, Ken-ichi

FUJIWARA, Akira

1999

YOSHIOKA, Asao

2000

EGAMI, Yukio

FORSYTH, Aiko Mary

KAWABATA, Eijiro

MATANOJO, George

MORIUCHI, Chie

YOSHIOKA

2001

NISHI, Diane

TAKAI, Sumiko

TSUJI, Soto

2003—7th Year

FUJII, Kiyosada

SHIMABUKURO, Toshio

2004

BABA, Kohei

HAMAZAKI, Kazue

NAKAJIMA, Yasuharu

2005

MORISHITA, Sawa

TSURUMARU, Ristu

2006

IKEGAMI, Sachiko

KIKUCHI, Toru

KOMORI, Tadahiro

2007—3rd Year

FUCHIHARA, Mike

KAZUTA, Matsuko

2008—1st Year

NISHI, Masaru

TAKAKI, Yukio Frank

YAMASHITA, Shunichi

With deepest sympathies...

The Vancouver Buddhist Temple wishes to express its deep condolences for the families of

Mrs. Shigeko Fujinami (February 27th)

Mr. Iwao Sakai (March 22nd)

Mr. Kiyoshi Nishimoto (March 23rd)

If you wish to have a Memorial Service this summer, please contact Rev. Aoki. The dates book up quickly.

JSBTC Update April 2009 From the Office of Bishop

*A monthly update from the national headquarters of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC).
11786 Fentiman Place, Richmond, BC, V7E 6M6. Ph: 604-272-3330, office@bcc.ca www.bcc.ca*

Alas! Two months of the New Year have passed by very quickly and it is already mid-March. I hope all of you are enjoying good health and spirits in the Light of Compassion of Amida Budha.

Recently I read a quote from a Jodo Shinshu minister in Japan who said that there are three kinds of hills (saka) in the journey of human life: The uphill (nobori-zaka), the downhill (kudari-zaka), and the hill of unbelievable and unexpected (masaka).

The uphill is usually very tough to travel whether we are walking or running. Young parents have to work very hard to give good education and care for their children. Especially in this very competitive society, one must study or practice hard in order to excel in whatever one does. In contrast, the downhill is often easy to travel, but it also refers to the old age and the decline of health, energy, and enthusiasm.

Unlike either of the two previous hills, the hill of unbelievable or unexpected is something we witness every day in the newspaper and TV. This is what Gautama Siddhartha discovered through his intensive meditation under the Bodhi Tree: *“Everything is constantly changing, therefore you must do your best every day.”*

We all wish for good fortune, benefit, health, but in reality what we get is the series of unbelievable and unexpected events, things don't always go as we wish or plan.

Because of this reality, we must realize how important it is to hear the way of peace and tranquility in whatever happens at any time and any place. In this sense, we are very fortunate to have been nurtured in the community of the Nembutsu by which we can cross over the hills of life reciting the Name of Amida Buddha.

In gassho, namoamidabutsu

Coming Events:

March	21—22	Visitation to Nanaimo and Victoria Fellowships
April	11—19	Visitation to Montreal, Toronto, and Hamilton Temples
	23—26	JSBTC Ministerial Association Meeting JSBTC Board of Directors' Meeting JSBTC Annual General Meeting New Temple Dedication—Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta
May	16—18	Manning Park Family Retreat
	27—28	World Jodo Shinshu Coordinating Council Meeting in Kyoto
July	10—25	Hongwanji Youth Tour led by Rev. Grant Ikuta
Sept.	15—17	Ministerial Association Meeting / Seminar in Steveston

Sunday, June 7th.
9 am—ChildRun
11:00 am—Outdoor Service



Registration is now open for the 24th Annual Childrun taking place at BC Children's Hospital on Sunday, June 7th. This will be Vancouver Buddhist Temples 9th year participating as a team and everyone is welcome to join in. Young and old—athletes and casual strollers—join us for this fun day in the Vancouver outdoors.

*Early Bird Registration Deadline—April 16th (save \$ on your registration fee)
Team Registration Deadline—May 15, 2009*

For more information, please contact Team Captain Lori North at (604) 939-3460 or by email to lori.north@gmail.com. Register on-line by going to www.childrun.com



Takanawadai High School Band Concert

99 high school students from Takanawadai High School in Japan played, sang, and danced for us in March.



Left—Yumi Sudo of Aim Canada and our own Bob Akune welcomed and introduced the band at the start of the concert. *(photo by Greg Chor)*



Above—the students sang and danced as well as played their instruments. *(photo by Lori North)*



Left—after the concert, the students enjoyed a lunch with our members before continuing on with their busy schedule. *(photo by Lori North)*

Discovering Buddhism Joy TV (Channel 10)

Catch Rev. Fred Ulrich (Manitoba Buddhist Temple) in his half-hour series on Buddhism. His 18 part series starts with pre-Buddhist Buddhism and leads up to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism today. His series is shown on Channel 10 (Joy TV) here in the Vancouver Area on Wednesdays at 10:30 am, and repeats on Thursdays, at 3:00 pm and Saturdays at 1:30 pm. Rev. Ulrich has also participated in the Joy TV talk show series “Foundations” (Saturdays at 9 pm) in which he and other clergy from other faiths discuss topics and issues that affect our lives.

Wednesdays at 10:30 am, Thursdays at 3:00 pm, and Saturdays at 1:30 pm

April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 12:00 pm Japanese Service followed by Senior's Club	3	4
5 10:00 am * Steveston Buddhist Temple Hanamatsuri (no service in Vancouver)	6	7	8	9 12:00 pm Japanese Service followed by Senior's Club	10 7:00 pm Public Lecture: "The Way of Boundless Freedom" (Rev. Makino)	11 2:00 pm Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple Hanamatsuri & April Shotsuki
12 10:00 am * Vancouver Buddhist Temple Hanamatsuri/ Hatsumairi / Keiroukai /Installation of Officers	13	14	15 11:00 am Nikkei Home service & visitation.	16 12:00 pm Japanese Service followed by Senior's Club	17	18 Sakura Festival
19 10:30 am Shotsuki Service	20	21	22	23 12:00 pm Senior's Club	24	25
26 10:30 am Dharma Service	27	28	29	30 12:00 pm Japanese Service followed by Senior's Club		

Rev. Aoki will be absent from the temple from April 21st to 26th. He will be attending a number of national Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada meetings as well as the New Temple Dedication for the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta.

April 5 and 12—Vancouver and Steveston Hanamatsuri Services. Dharma School Hanamatsuri services will begin at 10:00 am. Full Hanamatsuri services will start at 10:30 am.