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Vancouver Buddhist Temple



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Bodhi Mind



Vancouver Buddhist Temple

Apr. 2017, Issue #407

A Way of Living as a Nembutsu Follower

Buddhism began when Sakyamuni attained enlightenment and became Buddha about 2500 years ago. In Japan, Buddhism was originally referred to as the Buddha Dharma. The Dharma here referred to the true reality of how the world is and the nature of humanity itself. It is the universal truth that transcends both space and time. The one who awakens to this truth is called a Buddha, and the teaching of the Buddha is the wisdom that teaches us how we can live, while dealing with many anxieties and sufferings we may experience in life.

Buddhism describes the true reality of this world and humanity using such phrases as 'impermanence' and 'dependent origination.' 'Impermanence' refers to the fact that everything changes moment by moment. On the other hand, 'dependent origination' explains that all things and phenomena are interconnected with one another, which bring about various causes and conditions that then give another set of causes and conditions and so on and so forth. Therefore, in this world we cannot find an unchanging and fixed 'self.'

However, we are unaware of this reality and thus we try to find some unchanging and fixed entity we call the self. This mindset is the basis of our egocentric way of thinking in which we judge whether they are beneficial to us or not, or whether we like something or not. As a result, we suffer when things do not turn out as we like and we become hostile to each other, thus confining ourselves to a bitter reality where we cannot truly be free. In Buddhism, this self-oriented tendency is expressed as 'ignorance and blind passions,' which are the very reasons we are deprived of our liberty and bound to this world of suffering. Ignorance and blind passions are represented as greed, anger, and foolishness also known as the 'three poisons.'

Shinran Shonin pursued religious practices for 20 years on Mount Hiei with the hope to attain enlightenment by conquering his blind passions. However, being aware of the depth of human desires which are irremovable by religious austerities, he descended Mount Hiei and under the guidance of Honen Shonin, finally encountered the salvific working of Amida Tathagata. Amida is the Buddha who not only wishes for but is actually working in accordance with the wish to save and guide to supreme enlightenment, all living beings who are in the midst of constant worries and distress. The Buddha's Wish, or the Primal Vow, declares that Amida's Great Compassion embraces us all as we are, as beings filled with selfish attachments and blind passions. However, even in encountering such all-inclusive salvific working, because of our own fathomlessly deep egocentric mindset and desires, we still cannot wholeheartedly entrust ourselves to the Buddha's Great Compassion. How sad this truly is.

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Continued from page 1

By listening to the Primal vow and how it was established by Amida Tathagata, we are enabled to become conscious of our own ignorance and self-oriented inclinations, and through such awareness, we naturally become gentle in word and deed in our efforts of minimizing our egoistic way of thinking. For example, with regard to how we live our lives, we 'learn to be content without wanting too much' and with regard to how may treat others we 'associate with people using gentle expressions and kind words.' Even though our efforts may pale in comparison to the Buddha's Compassion, we are at least guided in the proper direction by the Buddha Dharma. Shinran Shonin clarifies this in his letters addressed to his followers, in of which states, "There was a time for each of you when you knew nothing of Amida's Vow and did not say the Name of the Amida Buddha, but now, guided by the compassionate means of Sakyamuni and Amida, you have begun to hear the Vow. Formerly you were intoxicated with thoughts of greed, anger, and foolishness, but since you have begun to hear the Buddha's Vow you have gradually awakened from the drunkenness of ignorance, rejected the three poisons, and have come to prefer the medicine of Amida Buddha at all times." This is a stern admonition we should humbly receive.

In today's world, there is an endless list of difficult global issues that are directly related to the existence of humanity such as terrorist attacks, armed conflicts, widening economic gap, global warming, mishandling of nuclear waste, and violation of human rights through discrimination. Such are the result of our ignorance and blind passions in which we fail to see the true nature of ourselves. It is indeed true that we are imperfect with our selfish desires and cannot act in complete purity like the Buddha can. However, by trying to live according to the Buddha Dharma, let us make an effort to consider other peoples' joy as our own, as well as other peoples' suffering as our own. In this way, we can live to the best of our ability, arising to live up to the Buddha's Wish.

I will endeavor to share Amida Tathagata's Wisdom and Compassion through simple and clear language with as many people as possible regardless of nationality and ethnic background. Let us encourage everyone to act in accordance with the Buddha's Wish in an effort to create a society in which everyone can live a spiritually fulfilled life. In the hopes of creating a joyous world, let us continue moving forward by putting these words into action and together walk on our path to the truth.

Monshu OHTANI Kojun
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

October 1, 2016

Message from the VBT Board

The membership has spoken. Thank you for taking time to cast your vote for a new board of directors. The election tally is now complete and the list of new directors will be announced in the month of April.

The month of April is a busy month and one of joy and happiness. We will celebrate Shakyamuni Buddha's birthday (Hanamatsuri), in addition to Hatsumairi (Infant presentation ceremony) followed by the annual Keirokai lunch (to recognize our senior members). If you know of any members over the age of 70 do invite them to come. If they are any seniors who need transportation please call Hiroko at our temple office.

The guest speaker for our Hanamatsuri will be Ref. Patricia Usuki. She is a 'much-in-demand' speaker born and raised in Ontario as a 3rd generation Japanese-Canadian. Rev. Usuki presently serves as resident minister at the San Fernando Buddhist Temple in Southern California. She was the keynote speaker at the 2015 Calgary World Women's Convention. We invite everyone to hear this wonderful speaker and to meet her in person.

Gassho,
VBT Board of Directors

Important information about Donations

When the VBT receive donations, our aim is always to receive them with care, and to make sure donors are recognized for their generosity. This is done through the temple newsletter, but also through issuing official donation receipts for Income Tax purposes.

- In the case of **cheque donations**, VBT is only able to issue the receipt in the name of the account holder of the cheque
- In the case of **cash donations**, VBT will issue the receipt in the name indicated on the envelope. Please make sure the name of the donor is written clearly.
- In both cases, please make sure the mailing address is written clearly

We are deeply grateful for the generosity that allows our temple to function from day to day as a place for people to gather in the Dharma.



Public Lecture

Buddha and the Boardroom:*Issues on Wealth, Happiness, and the Settled Heart/Mind***Friday, April 7****7-9PM****Rev. Patricia Usuki**

(San Fernando Valley Buddhist Temple, California)

Hanamatsuri Guest Speaker and lecturer**Friday, April 7, 7:00—9:00 PM at VBT**

Patricia Kanaya Usuki was born in Toronto, Canada, to an Anglican father and a Buddhist mother. Her parents brought her up in the United Church of Canada. As an adult, she began a process of reflection on her life. "I've had my ups and downs," she thought, "but mostly I've had a wonderful life. Why am I able to enjoy such a life as this?" This question led her to explore the Buddhist tradition more closely.

A popular speaker, Rev. Usuki was the English language keynote speaker at the 2015 World Buddhist Women's conference held in Calgary by the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Women's Federation. She spoke in front of almost 2,000 Buddhists from across Canada, the United States, Brazil, and Japan.

Admission is by donation; everyone is welcome!

2017 OBON Cemetery & Temple Services**July 2 (Sun)**

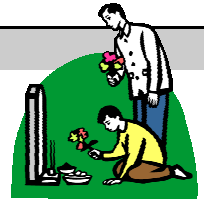
| | | |
|----------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 9:30 AM | Forest Lawn | フォレストローン |
| 10:00 AM | Ocean View | オーシャンビュー |
| 10:30 AM | Mountain View | マウンテンビュー @ North |
| 10:40 AM | @South by the crematorium | |

July 2 (Sun)

| | | |
|---------|----------------------|---------------|
| 4:00 PM | Valley View (Surrey) | バレービュー |
| 4:40 PM | New Westminster | ニュー・ウェストミンスター |
| 5:00 PM | Coquitlam | コキットラム |

July 4 (Tue)

| | | |
|----------|------------------|---------|
| 10:00 AM | Maple Ridge | メープルリッジ |
| 10:30 AM | Whonnock | ウォーノク |
| 11:00 AM | Hatzic (Mission) | ミッション |

**July 8 (Sat)**

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|----------|
| 2:00 PM | Aldergrove Cemetery | オルダーグローブ |
| 3:00 PM | FVBT Obon Service & Bon Dance | |
| | フレイザーバレーお盆・盆踊り | |

July 9 (Sun)

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 2:00 PM | Vancouver Obon & Shotsuki Service | |
| | バンクーバーお盆・祥月法要 | |
| 4:00 PM | Vancouver Bon Dance | バンクーバー 盆踊り |



Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada

Buddhist Youth Tour to Japan**2017 Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange (YBICSE)****Dates of Trip: July 10-23, 2017****Cost of Trip: CDN \$2,000**

(plus Travel Insurance arranged for by the participant)

Candidate Qualifications

- ✓ Jodo Shinshu Buddhist
- ✓ Between the age of 15 and 25
- ✓ In good health

Application Deadline: May 5, 2017*Application form is available from your local temple.*

If there are any questions regarding the tour, please contact
Rev. Tatsuya Aoki (JSBTC Group Leader).

Vancouver Buddhist Temple: (604) 253-7033

or

E-mail: rev.aoki@gmail.com



Meeting Dharma Friends from Hawaii, Buddhist Churches of America, South America, and Japan!



Greetings from the Valley

Thank you everyone who turned up for our "Spring cleaning" to dust, clean, weed, and make our temple shine for the coming Hanamatsuri Service and Kei-rokai party. We are very grateful for all of the volunteers that make our sangha work so well.

Please join us on April 7th at 2pm for our Hanamatsuri Service with guest Minister Patricia Utsuki. Following the service we ask everyone to enjoy some great food and to honour our seniors at our annual Kei-rokai party.

On May 13th we will have our Annual General Meeting following our Gotan-e service. Please remember to renew your membership and join in the discussion at our meeting. Your input is always welcome.

In gassho, Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple

Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple Donations Received in Gratitude

March 11, 2017 Spring Higan & Monthly Memorial Shotsuki Service

Tom & Yoko Matsuno, Irene Tateyama, Lori North, May Mukaida, Jean Nakatsui, Ron & Marilyn Fujita, Amy Kawamoto, Jenny Fujita, Tony Tateyama, Hiroshi & Ruth Honkawa

In memory of Alice Baker: Baker Family

For February Shotsuki (cancelled due to snow)

In memory of husband and dad Roy: Amy Nagamatsu, Perry Family

In memory of Akio Kamimura: Shoichiro & Masuko Kamimura

For Hanamatsuri: Irene Tateyama

Memberships: Naomi Shikaze, Chieko Takasaki, John & Masuko Kamimura, May Mukaida, Denise Cork, Hiro & Masami Miyagi, Hiroshi & Ruth Honkawa, M. Fujita

In Gassho, Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple

Toban Groups

The following activities in **April and May** are the responsibility of **Toban #1 April**

- Sun. 9th—9AM Hanamatsuri & Kei-rokai
- Sun. 16th—9AM Shotsuki

May

- Sat. 6th—10AM Toban and Board Mtg
- Sun. 14th—9AM Gotan-e & Shotsuki

Mrs. Tsuki Aratake
Mr. & Mrs. Minoru Asaoka
Mr. & Mrs. Bradly Bishop
Mrs. Naoe Bradley
Mrs. Haruyo Chiba
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Chor
Ms. Catherine DeRobert
Mr. & Mrs. Denny Enjo
Mr. Yoshio Fujimoto
Mrs. Shizue Hamaguchi
Mrs. Nancy Hamanishi
Mr. & Mrs. Yutaka Harada
Mr. Toshi Haraguchi
Mrs. Sayoko Hattori

Mr. & Mrs. Noboru Hayashi
Mr. & Mrs. Shigeru Hirai
Mr. Tim Hirata
Mrs. Kay Komori
Mr. & Mrs. Kazu Komori
Mr. & Mrs. Teruo Koyanagi
Mr. Rick Macdonald
Dr. Jessica Main
Mr. & Mrs. John Nakata
Mrs. Miyoko Nose
Mrs. Reiko Omoto
Mr. Edward Oyama
Ms. Marie Oyama
Mrs. Fumiyo Saruya

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Shirahama
Mr. & Mrs. Yukihiro Shoji
Mrs. Chieko Suzuki
Mr. Roy Tatsumi
Mrs. Etsuko Tsuji
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Uyesugi
Mr. & Mrs. George Uyesugi
Mr. Sho Uyesugi
Mr. & Mrs. Susumu Uyesugi
Mr. & Mrs. John Wong
Mrs. Frances Xu

Hanamatsuri (Buddha's Birthday) Sunday, April 9 at 10:30 am

Hanamatsuri, literally flower festival, is celebrated on April 8, commemorating the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, who became enlightened as Sakyamuni Buddha. According to our tradition, the historical Buddha was born in Nepal on April 8, 566 B.C. He was born the son of King Suddhodana and Queen Maya. There are many flowery descriptions of the scene at his birth, including celestial birds singing beautiful songs, beautiful flowers, and a sweet gentle rain bathing the baby Buddha. It is not necessarily the beauty of the flowers, the sounds of the celestial birds, nor the sweet gentle rain that fell, but the vibrant fact that on this day was born the greatest of sentient beings who became the Enlightened One, the Buddha.

Understanding the Buddha's teaching of interdependency of all things will make it clear that our birth is the result of many causes and conditions. Realizing this we can see that our birth is truly a rare and wonderful gift, and we have an obligation to live out this life in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha.

This obligation to live our lives out to the fullest becomes even more striking when we look at the symbolism and the significance of the flower. The flower, as with all human beings, has its moment of youth and beauty, but its beauty soon begins to fade and eventually it dies. Our birth is like the blossoming of a beautiful flower, but it is the seed of our own demise. When we can understand our own impermanent nature, then it becomes very clear how we should live our lives.



Cont'd on next page 5

April Shotsuki (Memorial) List

1958

*HIRAYAMA, Michiyo

1959

*NAMBA, ?

1960

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, Ryoze

*YAMAMOTO, Isamu

*YOSHIDA, ?

*YOSHIOKA, Teruo

1973

*KOBAYASHI, Isuke

*YAMAGUCHI, Kiyoko

1974

*SHIRAHAMA, Tomomi

1975

*HASEBE, Yukio

*TERADA, Kentaro

1976

*EDAMURA, Jujiro

1977

*KOYANAGI, Toru

1978

*KAMATA, Genzaburo

1980

*IKEDA, Toyoharu

INOUE, Yoshinobu

KOMORI, Fujihiro

MARUNO, Michiko

1981

*TATEYAMA, Shigeyoshi

*WAKABAYASHI, Masa

1982

*HASEBE, Noburo

*IWABUCHI, Shimpei

MATSUI, Sadao

*TANAKA, Kiyu

1983

NUKINA, Yoshiko

1984

*HAMANISHI, Fusaye

*HAYAM Yoshimatsu

*KADA, Fude

*MIDORIKAWA, Kono

NAKANO, Reizo

1985—33rd 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

TERAKITA, Hideo

1991

BANNO, Magohachi

*DOI, Sumiko

*GODO, Moichi

*UTSUNOMIYA, Kinuye

1992

*OSATO, Hiroko

TSUJI, Sumi

YADA, Katsutoshi

1993—25th Year

*CHIAI, Asae

KOYANAGI, Mitsuru

*TANIYAMA, Shigeru

1994

*FUKUHARA, Asano

*SHISHIDO, Kiyoko

TANIZAWA, Mitsuyoshi

1995

MATSUNAGA, Shigekazu

1996

KONDO, Masaru

1997

KITANO, Yaeno

TSUJI, Tadao

1998

NISHI, Kenichi

FUJIWARA, Akira

The April Shotsuki monthly memorial service will be held on **Sunday, April 16 at 10:30 am**

1999

MATSUSHITA, Naka

2000

EGAMI, Yukio

FORSYTH, Aiko Mary

KAWABATA, Eijiro

YOSHIOKA,

Matanojo George

MORIUCHI, Chie

2001—17th Year

NISHI, Diane

TAKAI, Sumiko

TSUJI, Soto

2003

FUJII, Kiyosada

SHIMABUKURO, Toshio

2004

BABA, Kohei

HAMAZAKI, Kazue

NAKASHIMA,

Yasuharu

2005—13th Year

MORISHITA, Sawa

2006

IKEGAMI, Sachiko

KIKUCHI, Toru

KOMORI, Tadahiro

2007

FUCHIHARA, Mike

KAZUTA, Matsuko

2008

NISHI, Masaru

TAKAKI, Yukio Frank

YAMASHITA, Shunichi

2009

FUNATSU-MEYER, Shohei

TAKAHARA, Kiyokazu

2010

NOMURA, Emily

2012

SATO, Sumiko

TAMAKI, Michiko

ABURAMOTO, Reiko

2013

YUZA, Jihei

NISHIZAWA, Chieko

TAKEUCHI, Akio

2014

KURAHASHI, Akio

MORI, Akira

2015—3rd Year

NISHIMURA, Ayako

Passings

Our deepest condolences go to the families and friends of

Kaoru Kimoto

Jan. 22 (94 yrs)

Mitsuyo Takahara

Feb. 4 (84 yrs)

Fumie Tamaki

Feb. 13 (93 yrs)

Nancy Leong

Mar. 2 (96 yrs)

Yukiko Okano

Mar. 12 (94 yrs)

HANAMATSURI

Con't from pg 4

From the murky depths of this quagmire of life, there still are occasions when sentient beings may, out of sincerity of mind, effort and intelligence, produce pure thoughts which may bloom into the ultimate purity of the white lotus, enlightenment.

Hanamatsuri represents one of these occasions. It is a time for us to show our gratitude and rededicate ourselves as we contemplate the importance the birth of our teacher, master, spiritual guide and friend, Sakyamuni Buddha.

The text on this page comes from a pamphlet published by the Northwest Ministerial Association, Buddhist Churches of America.



April 2017



| Sun. | Mon. | Tues | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------|---|---|--|--|
| | | | | | | 1 10:00 AM Board Meeting |
| 2 10:30AM VBT English Dharma Service | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 12:00 PM Noon Howakai & Seniors' Club | 7 7:00 PM Public English Lecture by Rev. P. Usuki | 8 2:00 PM FVBT Hanamatsuri & April Memorial Shotsuki Service (Rev. P. Usuki) |
| 9 10:30 AM Hanamatsuri / Infant Presenta- tion / Keiroukai luncheon (Guest Rev. P. Usuki) | 10 | 11 | 12 11:00 AM Nikkei Home Service (Rev. Aoki) | 13 12:00 PM Noon Howakai & Seniors' Club | 14 Good Friday (Office Closed) | 15 |
| 16 10:30AM April Shotsuki monthly memori- al service | 17 Easter Monday | 18 | 19 | 20 12:00 PM Noon Seniors' Club | 21 | 22 2017 JSBTC Ministers' meeting and AGM (Toronto) |
| 23 NO Service at VBT | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 12:00 PM Noon Howakai & Seniors' Club | 28 | 29 |
| 30 10:30AM VBT English Dharma Service | May 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 12:00 PM Noon Howakai & Seniors' Club | 5 | 6 9:00 AM Toban Captain Mtg 10:00 AM Toban Meeting and Board Mtg |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 12:00 PM Noon Howakai & Seniors' Club | 12 | 13 |

* Rev. Aoki will be in Kyoto to attend the Commemoration of the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition at the mother temple, Nishi Hongwanji from **March 29 to April 5**.

Should you require emergency ministerial (funeral) services during this time, please contact Rev. Grant Ikuta of the Steveston Buddhist Temple at 604-908-4140.