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Bodhi Mind



Vancouver Buddhist Temple

April 2018, Issue #416

2018 Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada

Office of the Bishop Report



Depending on where you live, you may still be encountering winter-like weather, wherever you read this I hope you are all doing well. Today, I share the report that I will present at the JSBTC Annual General Meeting, taking place on April 28th and 29th in Calgary, Alberta.

Report from the Office of the Bishop

When I was still the chairperson of the Ministerial Association, the National Board of Directors used to meet twice a year, once in the springtime and another time during the fall. However, presently the National Board holds a teleconference meeting on the third Tuesday evening of every month. Along with the Ministerial Association Chairperson, the board spends about 1 to 2 hours discussing various items associated with the running of the National Body.

As the Socho (Bishop) of Canada, I have spent time visiting the temples across our country. Over the past year, I have visited the following temples:

November 24th to 26th, 2017: Visited the Kelowna & Vernon Buddhist Temples

December 14th to 17th, 2017: Visited the Manitoba Buddhist Temple

March 2nd – 4th, 2018: Visited the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

June 14th – 17th, 2018: Plans to visit the Toronto Buddhist Temple

During my term in office, the only temple I have yet to visit is the Kamloops Buddhist Temple. I am presently coordinating with the local minister to arrange a time that I can visit the Kamloops Temple.

I have been receiving regular correspondence from our mother temple, the Nishi Hongwanji in Kyoto, Japan. The most important correspondence has been the completion of Monshu Sennyō's Accession Ceremony, which originally began on October 1st, 2016. The final Accession Ceremony Service took place on May 31st, 2017. Representing our Kyodan, Rev. Grant Ikuta led a group of 18 members to participate in the Overseas District Special Accession Ceremony Service which took place at the Hongwanji on Oct. 21st, 2016. I, myself, participated during a special Accession Ceremony Service in March of last year when all the Overseas Bishops attended the service together. For the occasion, I took a \$5,000 donation on behalf of our National Organization. Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani is making an effort to visit all of the districts both within Japan and overseas. In 2015 he visited Calgary and took place in the World

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Cont'd from pg 1 Buddhist Women's Convention which was hosted in Calgary. In September 2017, he visited the Hawaii Kyodan, and in March 2018, he made a visit to the district of Taiwan.

I have been receiving other correspondence, both on a regular basis and for special occasions. One such example is writing an official request for the annual New Year's Message from the Gomonshu. A formal request must be submitted six months in advance. Other correspondence includes the necessary paperwork for guest ministers sent from Japan, as well as registering the ministers in Canada according to their rank within the Hongwanji organization. This past year, I received a request from the Hongwanji monthly publication "Shuho" to have articles submitted introducing overseas temples. I asked Rev. Ikuta to write an article introducing the Steveston Buddhist Temple and Rev. Izumi to introduce the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta. The office of the Bishop was responsible for collecting the articles and submitting them to the Hongwanji.

In May 2017, the World Coordinating Council Meeting, also known as the Sochos Meeting, was held at the Hongwanji. Bishops from the Overseas District (BCA, Hawaii, South America, Canada) and representatives from the Hongwanji (Governor responsible for Overseas District and International Department Head) gathered to discuss issues regarding Overseas propagation and the roles of the ministers overseas. The main points of discussion for last year's meeting were as follows:

- To review the procedure of Sarana Affirmation Ceremonies that the Bishops of the Overseas districts conduct.

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Message from the VBT Board



Plans have commenced for next year's celebration of the 115th anniversary of the Vancouver Buddhist Temple and the 40th anniversary of our temple building. Some ideas for the year of celebration include: fundraising campaign for temple improvements, possible commemorative purchase of religious ornaments for the Hondo and naijin. If any member has a wish list to commemorate the milestone, please let any of the directors know.

What is our Future? The temple neighbourhood is quickly changing, parking is becoming a problem, and of course, our membership is declining and the building is getting older. A committee has been formed to discuss these issues. If you are interested in voicing your views about where and what the future holds for our temple, please join us.

The temple has an old upright piano which is not being used. If any member wishes to have a piano at no cost, please contact our temple office. It will require professional tuning but otherwise is in working order.

April 8th at 10:30 am, we will be celebrating Hanamatsuri, the birthdate of Prince Siddhartha, who eventually became Shakyamuni Buddha. Following the service our annual Keiroukai luncheon will be held. It is to recognize and acknowledge our senior members for their dedication to our temple. All members over the age of 75 will be recognized and honoured. If you know of any member who is eligible, including couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in 2018, please let our office know. We ask simply that you come to the temple and join us on that day of celebration because we will not be sending personal written invitations.

In Gassho, the VBT Board

HATSUMAIRI

Infant Presentation Ceremony

We cordially invite any families with infants up to one year of age to participate in our annual Hatsumairi Ceremony, which is to take place during our Hanamatsuri (Sakyamuni Buddha's Birthday) service on **Sunday, April 8, 2018**. Hatsumairi literally means "first Buddhist service". Often translated as "Infant Presentation Service", Hatsumairi represents the first opportunity for families to bring infants who were born during the previous year to Temple. At the same time, it gives our Temple the opportunity to give expression to the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha, which embraces people of all ages, genders, races, and social strata.

If your family wishes to participate, please contact the temple office by the registration **deadline Thursday, April 5**.



Hanamatsuri (Buddha's Birthday)

Sunday, April 8 at 10:30 am—VBT

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 Suddodhana 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.



April Events

Sunday, April 1 - 10:30 AM

VBT Monthly Shotsuki Service

Friday, April 6

7:00-9:00 PM

Public Lecture:

"Introduction to Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu" by Robert Gu-

benco Sensei

(Calgary Buddhist Temple)

Admission by donation



Saturday, April 7 - 2:00 PM

FVBT Shotsuki

Sunday, April 8 - 10:30 AM

Hanamatsuri, Hatsumairi followed by Keiroukai

Cont'd from pg 2

- The vestments of Kaikyoshi, to re-emphasize the usage of the Kaikyoshi Wagesa by Kaikyoshi ministers
- The English translation of Gomonsu-sama's book and the selling of the book overseas.
- The termination of support for propagational activity in Kenya. Due to the lack of evidence of any propagational activity being done.
- Proposal to open a branch of the Hongwanji International Department in San Francisco.

Although it is not the direct responsibility of the Socho, another activity that I was involved with was leading the Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange trip from July 10th to 23rd of last year. From Canada there were 5 individuals (both male and female) who participated. We spent most of the time in Kyoto and Tokyo. Although it was extremely hot and humid, I was relieved that not one individual was affected by the heat and we all came home safely.

As the Socho, I am also responsible for presenting the Honorary Posthumous Title (*Ingo*) as well as commendation awards. Upon receiving the request from the local ministers, the office of the Bishop prepares and sends out these certificates. Another function of the Bishop is to periodically update the Provincial Governments with the Clergy Registration certifying the ministers across Canada to be able to conduct Buddhist weddings at their local temples.

The above is a summary of the administrative activity that is carried out by the Office of the Bishop. Looking to the future, the most pressing issues are the nurturing of new *Kaikyoshi* ministers and the ongoing support of the ministers working throughout Canada.

The second half of the Bishop Aoki's report to, the national organization which includes details regarding the state of affairs of Overseas Ministers, will be published in next month's Bodhi Mind.

Greetings from the Valley

March and spring have finally appeared...at least once in a while, in the Valley. Our Shotsuki service was held on March 10th and we were able to have our annual general meeting as well.



Reverend Aoki officiated the service and gave his annual report at our meeting. 2017 was a very busy year for our little temple. The elections for our board completed the AGM and the following are board members for the year: Denise Cork, Kim Conway, Marion Fujita, Jenny McSkimming, Amy Nagamatsu, Lori North, Paige Perry, Irene Rohrer, Adam Russenholt, Naomi Shikaze and Lucy Yoshioka.

The ice and wind storms this winter will require outside maintenance this year, and as we do cleanups inside the temple, we will also make some changes. It has been 15 years since the rebuild and our temple could use a little special care.

Our next service will be Hanamatsuri on April 7th with guest minister Rev. Nobuya Mitsuda from Hongwanji so please attend. After all, it is a birthday party!

In Gassho, Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple

Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple

Donations Received in Gratitude

Feb. 10, 2018 Nirvana Day & Feb. Service

Byron Kagawa, Denise Cork, Stan & Lucy Yoshioka, Sam & Pat Yoshioka, Irene Tateyama, Jenny Fujita & Mike McSkimming, Hiro & Ruth Honkawa, Ben Shikaze, Canada Helps.Org, John & Masuko Kamimura for Jan. service

In memory of Roland Akio Kamimura: John & Masuko Kamimura

In memory of husband & father Roy Nagamatsu: Amy Nagamatsu, Paige Perry

Memberships: John & Masuko Kamimura, May Mukaida, Ben Shikaze

March 10, 2018 Spring Higan & March Service

May Mukaida, Stan & Lucy Yoshioka, Paige Perry, Denise Cork, Amy Nagamatsu, Irene Tateyama, Jean Nakatsui, Sam & Pat Yoshioka, Jenny Fujita, Ron & Marilyn Fujita, Lori North

In memory of Alice Baker: James Bell

Memberships: Paige Perry, Denise Cork, Hiro & Ruth Honkawa, Lori North, Sam & Pat Yoshioka, Irene Rohrer, Stan & Lucy Yoshioka, Naomi Shikaze, Mike & Jenny McSkimming, Masami Miyagi, Marion Fujita

In Gassho, Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple

Tōban Groups

From lunches at our monthly Shōtsuki services, to wiping down tables and cleaning the washrooms, the temple would not be the warm and welcoming place for gathering if it were not for the dedicated hard work of our members. When people come to the temple—whether it's for the first time or the 100th time—the care we put in our temple expresses how precious we hold the Teachings of the Buddha.

The following activities are the responsibility of **Tōban #2**

April

1 Sun. 9:00 am—Shotsuki service

8 Sun. 9:00 am—Hanamatsuri service

May

12 Sat. 10:00 am—Toban + Board Mtg

13 Sun. 9:00 am—Shotsuki

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Akune

Ms. Alexandra Chor

Mr. Patrick Couling

Ms. Kiyoko Hanazawa

Ms. Shirley Hanazawa

Mrs. Masako Hattori

Mrs. Tokiko Hayashi

Mr. Shinobu Homma

Mr. & Mrs. Narhari Joshi

Mr. Suresh Joshi

Mr. Tom Kadota

Mrs. Mary Kawamoto

Mr. & Mrs. Takehisa Kawasaki

Mrs. Sharon Kawasaki-Chan

Mr. Mits Kazuta

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kitamura

Mrs. Fujiko Kitano

Mrs. Eleanor Kondo

Ms. Fumie Kondo

Mr. Paul Kondo

Ms. Toshiko Koriyama

Mrs. Yoshiko Koyanagi



Mrs. Kazue Kozaka

Mr. Takeshi Kumano

Mrs. Shu MingLai

Mr. Doug Maruno

Mrs. Terumi Matsunaga

Mr. & Mrs. Sadao Minato

Mr. Kazuo Mori

Mrs. Noriko Natsukoshi

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Nomura

Mr. Tom Okada

Mrs. Fusae Sameshima

Mrs. Tsuneko Soyama

Mr. Tetsuo Takemori

Ms. Joyce Takeshita

Ms. Marilyn Teramura

Mr. Eiji Tsuji

Mr. & Mrs. Keith Tsukishima

Mrs. Toshiko Tsukishima

Mr. Dave Wong

Mrs. Masako Yada

Mrs. Keiko Yagi

Mrs. Kuniko Yuasa

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—25th Year

*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, 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, Kiyoo

1983

NUKINA, Yoshiko

1984

*HAMANISHI, Fusaye

*HAYAM Yoshimatsu

*KADA, Fude

*MIDORIKAWA, Kono

NAKANO, Reizo

1985

*HIROKADA, Shigeo

NASU, Chiyo

1986—33rd Year

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

*CHIAI, Asae

KOYANAGI, Mitsuru

*TANIYAMA, Shigeru

1994—25th Year

*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 1 at 10:30 am**

1999

MATSUSHITA, Naka

2000

EGAMI, Yukio

FORSYTH, Aiko Mary

KAWABATA, Eijiro

YOSHIOKA,

Matanojo George

MORIUCHI, Chie

2001

NISHI, Diane

TAKAI, Sumiko

TSUJI, Soto

2003

FUJII, Kiyosada

SHIMABUKURO, Toshio

2004

BABA, Kohei

HAMAZAKI, Kazue

NAKASHIMA,
Yasuharu

2005

MORISHITA, Sawa

2006—13th Year

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

NISHIMURA, Ayako

2017—3rd Year

NAKAGAWA, Shoko

NAKAGAWA, Fumie

Passings

Our deepest
condolences go to the
families and friends of

Mrs. Yukiko Murata
January 31
(95 years)

Mrs. Toshiyo Harada
March 2
(80 years)



Makura-gyo

(Pillow-side) Service

When families consider having a Pillow-side service, they are encouraged to notify Rev. Aoki with advance notice. This offers Rev. Aoki time to adjust, if possible, his schedule accordingly.

Depending on the wishes of the family, Rev. Aoki is quite prepared to conduct the service immediately following the passing, wherever the location or hour. Providing information prior to a passing is important for Rev. Aoki, not only so that he can adjust his schedule and prepare for the service, but is also an opportunity for him to offer information and address any questions the family may have. Dr. Robert Akune, VBT Funeral Committee Chair

April 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tues	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1 10:30 AM April Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service	2	3	4 7:00 PM English Work- shop	5 12 Noon Japanese Howakai by Rev. Mitsuda and Seniors' gathering	6 7:00PM Public Lecture @VBT by Sensei Robert Gubenco	7 2:00 PM FVBT Hanamatsuri & Shotsuki Guest Ministers Gubenco & Mitsuda
8 10:30 AM Hanamatsuri & Hatsumaeri (Infant Presentation), Kei- roukai Luncheon	9 **	10	11 7:00 PM English Work- shop	12 12 Noon Seniors' gather- ing	13	14 10:00 AM VBT Board Meet- ing
15 10:30 AM Steveston Temple Hanamatsuri with Rev. Carol Himaka *No service at VBT*	16	17	18 11:00 AM Service at Nik- kei Home (Rev. Ikuta) 7:00 PM English Workshop	19 12 Noon Japanese Howakai and Seniors' gather- ing	20	21
22 10:30 AM English Dharma Service	23	24	25 *** 7:00 PM English Work- shop	26 12 Noon Seniors' gather- ing	27	28 JSBTC AGM (Calgary)
29 JSBTC AGM (Calgary) *No service at VBT*	30	**Rev. Aoki is attending the World Women's Representative Meetings and the 750th Memorial Service for Eshin-ni at Hongwan-ji in Kyoto from Monday April 9 to Tuesday April 17. If you require urgent ministerial service (Makura- gyo- Pillow-side service), please call Rev. Grant Ikuta of Steveston Temple (604) 908-4140 *** Rev. Aoki and Ikuta are not available April 25—29 due to Ministers meet- ings and JSBTC meetings in Calgary.				

May 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tues	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3 12 Noon Japanese Howakai and Seniors' gathering	4	5
6 10:30 AM English Dharma Service	7	8	9	10 12 Noon Seniors' gathering	11	12 10:00 AM Toban and Board Meeting 2:00 PM FVBT Shotsuki (Rev. Ikuta)
13 10:30 AM Gotan-e & Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service	14	15	16 11:00AM Service at Nikkei Home (Rev. Ikuta)	17 12 Noon Japanese Howakai and Seniors' gathering	18	19 Manning Park Family Camp May 19-21
20 *No service at VBT*	21 Victo- ria Day VBT office closed	22	23	24 12 Noon Japanese Howakai and Seniors' gathering	25	26