

BODHI MIND

Issue 300

June 2006

Published by:
Vancouver Buddhist Church
220 Jackson Avenue
Vancouver, BC, CANADA V6A 3B3
Tel: (604) 253-7033
Website: www.vancouverbuddhistchurch.ca
E-mail: vbcnews@telus.net

Obon



The origin of Obon can be traced to the Ulambana Sutra which relates the story of Mogallana, the most gifted of Shakyamuni Buddha's disciples in the area of extraordinary sense perceptions. A very filial son, Mogallana one day used his extraordinary powers to visualize the whereabouts of his mother who had died. Searching all the realms, from the highest of the heavens to the lowest of the hells, he was surprised and horrified to find his mother suffering the torments of the realm of Hungry Ghosts. With his powers again, he filled a bowl with food and sent it to his mother. The food burst into flames each time she put it to her mouth. Finding himself helpless in aiding his mother, he ran to the Buddha seeking help.

The Buddha tells Mogallana that he needs the combined help of all the monks to help his mother. He was told to bring offerings of food from land and sea, and sweets piled on a platter to the Sangha at the end of the Pravarana. The Pravarana was a period of retreat for the Buddha and his disciples during the rainy season in India. This was from the 15th of April to the 15th of July by the western calendar. Monks were forbidden to travel in order to avoid the killing of insects which multiplied greatly during the rainy season. They were to stay in one place to listen to the Buddha's talks, study, and meditate. Mogallana made the prescribed offerings and his mother and seven generations of his ancestors were relieved of their sufferings. Mogallana was so overjoyed that he clapped his hands and danced for joy. This is said to have been the beginning of the *Bon Odori*.

Jodo Shinshu (True Pure Land School) does not look upon Obon as the time when the "souls" of ones ancestors return, and that the services, offerings, dancing, lights, and etc. are for the benefit of ones dead relatives. It is rather a time to remember and honor all those who have passed on before us. It is to appreciate all that they have done for us and to recognize the continuation of the influence of their deeds upon our lives. Obon is a time for self-reflection (an important Buddhist practice) for it is only when man becomes aware of his imperfections and insufficiency in contrast to his ideals that religion becomes a matter of personal concern.

Obon is also called the Gathering of Joy by Jodo Shin Buddhists. It is not the happiness of getting what you desire, but the joy of being shown the Truth of what one is, no matter how damning that truth is to the image of our-ego-self. It is the joy of the awareness of being embraced in the Truth, in Amida Buddha. Bon Odori too is not a dance of happiness but rather a dance of Joy.

Namo Amida Butsu
Tatsuya Aoki

Inside this issue:

Rev. Aoki	1
Events Calendar	2
Dharma School	3
Shotsuki List	4
A Few Words	5
BCC Update	6
Fraser Valley	7
Obon 2006	8
Swim for Cancer	9



Coming Events

Sunday Morning Family Services are held every Sunday starting at 10:30 am. Service is followed by Dharma School classes for children and Adult Dharma Discussion. (no Dharma Discussion following Shotsuki services).

Thursdays 12:00 pm

VBC Seniors Club starts with a service in Japanese followed by Tai chi exercises, table tennis, refreshments, and bingo.

Saturday, June 3, 2:00 pm

Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple—June Shotsuki/Memorial Service

Sunday, June 4, 9:00 am

BC Children's Hospital CHILDRUN. Join the VBC team as we walk/run this 5 km event to raise funds for the hospital's Cancer Department. Donations to the Run are accepted.

Sunday, June 4, 11:00 am

VBC Open Air Service. An open air service will be held in Queen Elizabeth Park near the Tennis Courts. It will start at approximately 11:00 am (after the Child Run)

Thursday, June 8, 7:30 pm

VBC Board Meeting

Saturday, June 10, 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Buddhist Lecture—History of Buddhism. Rev. Miyakawa of the Interior Temples will be holding a public lecture on the history of Buddhism. The lectures will be held at the Steveston Buddhist Temple starting at 9:00 am. Please register in advance by calling Steveston Buddhist Temple. If you wish to purchase a bento lunch, the cost will be \$10.00 (orders must be placed in advance)

Sunday, June 11, 10:30 am

Parents' Day and Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki)

Tuesday, June 13, 7:30 pm

Bon Odori Practice—everyone is welcome to come out Tuesday and Friday evenings to learn this year's Obon Odori dances. Practices will be June 13, 16, 20, 23, 27 and 30th and July 4 and 7.

Saturday, June 17, 12:00 pm

VBC Golf Tournament. Open to everyone—enjoy a game of golf, a super dinner, and win a prize.

Sunday, June 18, 10:30 am

Pet Memorial Service. You are invited to remember your family pet(s) at this annual Memorial Service.

Wednesday, June 21, 11:00 am

Nikkei Home Monthly Service

Rev. Kikuchi

Saturday, June 24, 6:00 pm

VBC Annual Potluck Dinner

Sunday, June 25, 10:30 am

Dharma School Year-End Service

VANCOUVER BUDDHIST CHURCH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Saturday, June 17, 2006
MUSQUEAM GOLF COURSE
3904 W. 51st, Vancouver, BC**

**Tee Off starting at 12:00 noon.
\$65.00 entry fee—includes golf,
dinner and prizes**

**Everyone come out and join in the
fun. Enjoy a game of golf, a super
dinner, and win a prize.**

Please contact:

Frank Hamanishi (604) 298-9285

Or

Min Koyanagi (604) 433-3119

Or

VBC Office (604) 253-7033



Dharma School Report

After Gotanye Service on May 14th, decorated pots bearing the word “Mom” filled with sweet miniature African violets were seen in the social hall as everyone sat for otoki lunch. The little flower pots were mothers’ day gifts made by Lumbini class.

It is not too late to register for the HSBC Child Run on Sunday, June 4th, to raise funds for child cancer research and treatment. An outdoor service will be held at 11:00 a.m. near the tennis courts at Queen Elizabeth Park following the run and plans are for lunch at a nearby restaurant after the service. Please contact Lori North for more information.

Parents’ Day will be held in conjunction with the June memorial service on June 11th at 10:30 a.m. and Final Exercises for Dharma School will be on June 25th.

Vancouver Buddhist Church Joins the BC Children’s Hospital CHILDRUN Sunday, June 4, 2006

The VBC Childrun Team invites you to join them for their 5th year in the Children’s Hospital CHILDRUN. This family friendly event raises money for research and treatment of BC children suffering from cancer.

Join the team or make a donation—the children of BC appreciate your help. For more information, please contact Lori North (Vancouver). To join the team or make a donation, please go to www.Childrun.ca and find our team in the team list on the right of the web-page. Donations may be made right up to the start of the run.



ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS ENTERING COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY IN 2006

VANCOUVER BUDDHIST CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP

The Vancouver Buddhist Church offers a one-time \$500 scholarship to a member of the temple who is graduating from a BC high school and who is enrolling in an education institute such as a university, college or a technical school.

If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, please contact the VBC office at (604) 253-7033 for an application package.

BC JODO SHINSHU BUDDHIST CHURCHES FEDERATION POST SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS

The BC Federation is offering two scholarships for students enrolling in a post-secondary institution in September 2006.

These awards are available to any BC student who has been a member of ANY religious organization (Buddhist or non-buddhist).

For more information, please contact the BCJSBCF Scholarship Committee by e-mail at Lori_North@telus.net

Shotsuki List—June

Sunday, June 11, 2006, 10:30 am

1959

YAMAMOTO, Koshichi

1961

HIRAKIDA, Chiyoko

MUKUYAMA, Sueko

1962

KAWAGUCHI, Yoshigoro

1963

UI, Kenny

YAMASHITA, Manjiro

1964

TAKEUCHI, Tomiye

1965

HUDSON, Irene

1967

INOUE, Kazuo

1968

FURUKAWA, Kumakichi

KASUYA, Toyonari

NODA, Sueno

YADA, Kameno

1969

HIKIDA, Yazaemon

1970

KANEKO, Shojiro

MIYAGAWA, Ume

ONO, Yosojiro

1971

TABATA, Heizo

1972

KONO, Nobue

MAYEDA, Miyuki

OHARA, Jo

1973

TAKUCHI, Sowa

1974—33rd Year

SAKAI, Tokuzo

TATEYAMA, Sumi

YAMAHA, Junzo

1975

MORITA, Hiroshi

SUGIYAMA, Yusaka

WADA, Tsuneko

1976

KOBAYASHI, Kanzaburo

1977

DOI, Yojiro

HIRAYAMA, Shigeru

YUDA, Chiwako

1978

LEE, Shion

ITSUI, Miyako

NAGANO, Kazuichi

SHINTANI, Kuni

1979

HARA, Shinichi

KOZAI, Kiri

1981

HORI, Tadao

WAKAHARA, Haru

1982—25th Year

MAYEDA, Hatsu

1983

TANII, Kichiji

TERANISHI, Masuye

1985

IWANAKA, Motoi

KARAKI, Hideaki

KUMAMOTO, Jun

NISHIGUCHI, Waku

1986

NAKAMURA, Kameno

SHIKAZE, Yoshio

TANIGUCHI, Juntaro

TANIZAWA, Shige

UYENO, Yukio

1987

FUJIWARA, Katsu

KURAHASHI, Setsuko

MATSUTANI, Itono

1988

SHIMIZU, Kaneyoshi

1990—17th Year

FUJII, Tomoko

1991

SATO, Hideo

MOTOMOCHI, Yoshiko

YOSHIDA, Teiichi

1992

EGAMI, Kimiye

HAMANISHI, Takeo

KAWAMOTO, Itoye

KUMANO, Asaye

KURAHASHI, Hisako

NARIWA, Masahiro

TANAKA, Mizuo

1993

MORISHITA, Teiji

MURATA, Yoshikazu

YOSHIDA, Alvin

1994—13th Year

TAKUBO, Hisao

FUJITA, Yasuyoshi

1995

INOUE, Tsutomu

ITO, Misao

WAKABAYASHI, Mitsuye

YAKURA, Yukinobu

YANO, Matsuyo

YANASE, Katsuhiko

1996

SHIMIZU, Aiko

1997

KANAYAMA, Shoichi

SHIKAZE, Yeda

UYEDA, Miki

UYENO, Sumio

1998

HAMAZAKI, Kazuko

ODA, Mfasato

TANAKA, Yoshi

1999

MIYAGAWA, Sutekichi

NAKAGAWA, Yoshio

2000—7th Year

KAZUTA, Kiyoso

2001

KOJIMA, Marge

2002

ASAOKA, George

NAKAHARA, Ryosuke

2003

FUJITA, Chizuru

SOGA, Tsuneko

2004—3rd Year

SAKAMOTO, June

2005—1st Year

FUKUMOTO, Toshiyuki

HAMA, Shizue

FUKUDA, Yoshiko

MATSUNAGA, Toshiko

HIQUEBRAN, Harumi

HIQUEBRAN, Jimmy

James Hiroshi

MATSUNAGA, Masami

“In this life no matter how much pity and sympathy we may feel for others, since our compassion has its limits, we cannot help another as thoroughly and consistently as we wish.

Thus, only the saying of Nembutsu manifests the complete and thoroughgoing compassion which is true, real, and sincere.”

Shinran Shonin

With Deepest Sympathies....

We extend our sympathies to the families of the following people who's loved ones have passed away.

Sachiko Ikegami—April 14

Yoshiaki Sato—May 18



A Few Words from John Harada

It has been two and a half years since Reverend Aoki came from Japan to Vancouver Buddhist Church as the resident minister. As seen from this Bodhi Mind, the publication has become easier to read and has improved significantly. I believe that the working of the temple is better like the Senior Service held for the Senior Club members every Thursday, and the services held before each Board of Directors Meeting. What we as the Vancouver Buddhist Church need to consider now the most is the declining membership due to the aging of our member population. Temple membership has dropped by about a hundred people in the last ten years, from five hundred to four hundred. At the Keiroukai "Senior Day" held this spring, close to a hundred members were over 75 years old. At this rate, I am concerned about the future of the temple, including annual events such as bazaars.

Since last fall, Mr. Yutaka Takemoto's son has become a member and has been helping with events like bazaar. When I asked him his reason for coming, he replied that his late mother had told him to join the VBC when she was gone. His mother was a devoted Buddhist follower. If members, like Mr. Takemoto's mother, guide their children and grandchildren to join, then I think that the temple membership will not decline.

Also, it is important for all members to encourage their friends and colleagues to become members. Presently the nokotsudo (columbarium) is situated on the third floor behind locked doors, but if it is moved to a more convenient location for families to pay respects to the deceased, more people may attend Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Services, have closer ties to the temple, and become members.

Three years ago with the dissolving of the Fujinkai and the switch to the Toban system, VBC events have run smoothly, but I think it is time to re-examine the temple events and financial activities as the various volunteer activities for fundraising have at times been dissociated from the main focus as Buddhist followers.

Last year we celebrated the centennial of the Buddhist Churches of Canada. Welcoming the Gomonshu to the celebrations, I feel fortunate to have been able to participate in such a happy occasion.

In gassho,

John Harada, Vice-President

PLEASE NOTE:

There will not be any donations listed in this issue of the Bodhi Mind. Donations received in May will be included in the July issue.

Let's All Go to the Ball Game!

Seattle, Washington

August 26, 2006

The Dharma School is planning a trip to Seattle to see a Mariner's game and visit the Seattle Betsuin.

We plan to stay overnight at the Betsuin and join their members for Sunday service before returning back to Vancouver.



Everyone is welcome.
Please let the VBC Dharma School teachers know if you are interested in joining the trip.

BCC Update— May 2006

*A monthly update from the national headquarters of the Shin Buddhist Churches of Canada.
11786 Fentiman Place, Richmond, B.C., V7E 6M6 ph: 604-272-3330 fax: 604-272-6865
bcheadquarters@axion.net or office@bcc.ca web: www.bcc@bcc.ca*

May I express my sincere appreciation to the fellow BCC ministers, Board of Directors, and delegates from the temples and churches across Canada for your enthusiastic participation and deliberation at our Annual General Meeting in Toronto on April 27-30.

And everyone who was there will agree with me when I say that the hosting chapter provided excellent preparation and hospitality during the weekend in the new facility. Thank you very much Toronto.

As I mentioned in the greeting of AGM, this 2006 marks our 101st Anniversary and we must start our fresh missionary as we are facing many challenges such as aging and decline of membership and shortage of leaderships.

Particularly I was happy to hear the town meeting which was held on Sunday afternoon on the future of Jodo Shinshu in Canada. There were many positive opinions expressed by the delegates which will be later reported and considered.

Finally I am happy to report that BCC Living Dharma Centre, our Centennial Project, has stepped forward with Dr. Rev. Leslie Kawamura joining as an interim director during the weekend.

Coming events

Jun 3/4 60th Anniversary of Manitoba Sangha

10 Dharma School Teachers' Seminar with Miyakawa Sensei in Steveston

25 60th Anniversary of Montreal Sangha

July 15-29 Hongwanji Youth Tour led by Aoki Sensei

21- Aug 10 Ryukoku Gakuen Summer School in Steveston

Sep 1-3 13th World Buddhist Women's Conference in Honolulu

12/13 Ministerial Association Seminar in Calgary

Oct 14 BCC Board Meeting in Steveston

21/22 Jodo Shinshu Centre Dedication in Berkley, Cal

Nov 11/12 BC and Alberta Buddhist Convention

BCJSBCF DHARMA SEMINAR

Date: June 10, 2006
Time: 9 am start (all day program)
Place: Steveston Buddhist Temple
4360 Garry St., Richmond,
BC
Speaker: Rev. Yasuhiro Miyakawa

Rev. Miyakawa of the Interior Shin Buddhist Association has been giving a successful series of lectures to the BC Interior on Buddhism and will give his lectures in a one-day seminar in Steveston.

For more information on this seminar, or to register for the event, please contact the Steveston Buddhist Temple. This event is open to members and the public. There will be a \$10 fee to cover lunch.

Greetings from the Fraser Valley.

This second weekend of May has been absolutely delightful out here, hope you have all enjoyed the same beautiful weather.

The BCC AGM has come and gone and Toronto must be commended on the excellent job they did . My overall impression of this year's AGM was that it was peaceful and less stressful than previous AGM's although everyone seemed to focus on the fact that Jodo Shinshu Buddhism has many steps to take to move forward. This was addressed at a workshop held on Sunday called Improving Accessibility to Jodo Shinshu. It was gratifying to know that we were all there for a common purpose.

On Sunday May 7 our sangha held our first homegrown dharma study session. Led by Ben Shikaze 15 of our members met to study the beginning chapters of the Tannisho. Hopefully our tiny forays into Jodo Shinshu Buddhism as a religious study will help us understand and appreciate the traditions of our current temple practices and services.

Saturday May 13 was our May Shotsuki and Gotan –e service. Chanting the full version of the Shoshinge gave us opportunity to appreciate ministers' training in Honganji. Reverend Aoki told us during his dharma talk that in training, if they did not maintain the correct rhythm, if they attempted to speed up the chant, they would be admonished and made to start over at the beginning. At least we in our temples do not have to sit on our legs during the entire service. Reverend Aoki seemed to be “ in the zone” during the chanting and many of us also felt quite caught up by the rhythm.

Remember that the monthly shotsuki service for June will be on June 3. If you would like to attend the June 10th workshop in Steveston given by Miyakawa Sensei, please contact Lucy Yoshioka so that arrangements can be made for carpooling and lunch.

Obon is coming quickly so we will be soon looking forward to odori practices and our July 8th Obon service. We are also planning an overnight trip to Seattle for their Obon service . The Seattle Obon is on July 15, 16. so if anyone from Vancouver or Steveston is interested in coming along please phone Naomi Shikaze or Lucy Yoshioka. We are planning to do an overnight trip and would like to make early accommodation plans.

In Gassho
FVBT

VBC POTLUCK DINNER!

Saturday, June 24, 6:00 pm

220 Jackson St., Vancouver, BC

Bring your family and friends, your favorite dish and:

- Learn about **Retirement Planning** from our special guest speaker, Karen Thompson, Investment Advisor at Odlum Brown.
- Be treated to a **Martial Arts Demonstration** by members of Shou-yu Liang's Wushu Taiji Qigong Institute Martial Arts School.

There will be Door Prizes and Bingo

Obon 2006

Bon Odori practices will be held from 7:30 to 9:00 pm every Tuesday and Friday evening starting on Tuesday, June 13th. Everyone is welcome to come and learn this year's dances.

Ohakamairi Cemetery Site Services will be conducted by Rev. Tatsuya Aoki at the following locations and time:

Thursday, July 6

1:00 PM Maple Ridge

1:40 PM Whonnock

2:30 PM Mission

Friday, July 7

5:30 PM New Westminster

7:00 PM Valley View

8:30 PM Coquitlam

Saturday, July 8

9:00 AM Stanley Park

9:50 AM Forest Lawn

10:30 AM Ocean View

11:30 AM Mountain View

3:00 PM Aldergrove

4:00 PM Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple "Obon and Monthly Memorial"

Obon, Hatsubon and July Shotsuki Service will be held at Vancouver Buddhist Church on **Sunday, July 9th at 2:00 pm**. Reverend John Iwohara will be the guest speaker.

Sunday, July 9

2:00 PM

Vancouver Buddhist Temple

"Hatsubon, Obon, and July Shotsuki Service"

(Guest Speaker: Rev. John Iwohara)

4:00 pm

Bon Odori

Vancouver Buddhist Temple

220 Jackson Ave.

Vancouver, B.C.

V6A 3B3

Tel: (604) 253-7033

MIYAKAWA SENSEI SWIMS FOR CANCER

In the hopes of increasing awareness of the devastation that cancer causes for both the patients and their families, to raise money for Cancer Research, and to show the public that Buddhists are compassionate and caring, Miyakawa Sensei decided to do a Swim-a-thon and swim 300 laps in a 25 metre pool for a total of 7.5 kilometres non-stop using the backstroke while balancing a water bottle on his forehead.

The Swim-a-thon took place on Monday, May 8, 2006 from 9 am - 12 noon at the Canada Games Pool in Kamloops and was all that it was hoped to be. Even though Sensei had to go to Japan in mid-April to attend his brother's funeral, and had just returned to Canada on May 1st, and was still suffering from Jet-lag, he took to the water at 9 am on May 8 and didn't get out until he had completed the 300 laps at 12 noon. He swam ever so smoothly that the water in the bottle didn't even seem to waver. Sensei is a remarkable swimmer, with incredible balance and focus and power to concentrate. Members from Kelowna, Vernon and Kamloops were on hand to give him support and cheer him on. Other Kamloops residents were also in attendance to watch the swim. Before entering the water, Sensei was wearing his "Got Buddha?" t-shirt that we had purchased at the AGM in Toronto.

Media coverage was excellent, and we are sure that many across Canada are aware of his feat. Our television station is affiliated with Global and gave us excellent coverage and made the news that evening. Robert Miyai of Winnipeg works for CBC and he arranged for CBC coverage, and a reporter came to Kamloops from Kelowna for the swim. Thank you so much, Robert. Many of you no doubt saw Miyakawa Sensei on the news on Monday evening, or on Canada Now, or CBC Newsworld.

Some members from our six British Columbia temples collected donations, and as we took the pledge sheets to the BCC annual general meeting in Toronto, we also collected donations from the delegates. Some delegates even took pledge sheets back to their temple so their members could donate.. Thanks to all the people who solicited donations, and to all the people who donated so generously, we have collected over \$6,787 for the Cancer Society. We know we will raise more as some pledge forms are still to be returned, and we are sure we will reach at least \$7,000, hopefully even \$8,000 or more. If any members would like to support Sensei's swim, we will gladly accept your donations and include it in the money raised by Sensei's Swim. Please make cheques payable to "Canadian Cancer Society" and mail to Roy Inouye, 1724 Clifford Avenue, Kamloops, BC V2B 4G6. We plan to make an additional presentation to the Cancer Society towards the end of this month.

To view pictures and video clips of the swim, please go to www3.telus.net/bcc2006/Downloads on the internet.

Gassho,

Roy Inouye for
Kamloops Buddhist Temple

