

BODHI MIND

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

Issue 297

March 2006

Chanting

What do Jodoshinshu people do as a practice?

We burn incense, we chant, and we eat. When we burn incense we burn away the thick outer shell of the ego and allow the inner fragrance to be released and be enjoyed by all. Then we can bow to Amida, the name of reality itself: *Infinite Light (space) Infinite Life (time)*. The fragrance of the incense, of I (Namo) connecting with Amida (*Amidabutsu*) remains.

Chanting as it is known in the east has few equivalents in western traditions. It is not singing but a kind of talking out loud from the pit of the stomach. There are two kinds of chanting: chanting to a set melody, and chanting without a set melody. In chanting to a set melody, the meaning of the text chanted is usually understood. In chanting without a set melody (*dokkyo*) the text is simply read out loud. The hard, ground woods of the incense are transformed into ash and subtle fragrance, coming to life through being burned away.

The sound of awakening to the fundamental oneness of all things can now begin. When Shinran Shonin says, "Take refuge in the Pure Music", chanting is as close as it gets. Each person becomes pure sound, his own sound, like no other. And when each voice is true to itself, it chants out loud – without embarrassment, without showing off, and without calculating. Then each uniquely individual sound adds layer upon layer to the total sound; a sound uniquely Buddhist. The only bad voice is the voice that tries to imitate another. The source of one's embarrassment in chanting is ego. Like Bon Odori, where to point is to just dance, the trick here is to just chant – easier said than done when we constantly catch our self traditional chanting, it is the sound that is important, not the meaning of the sound. In many ways, knowing the meaning of the sound is a hindrance to becoming pure sound. Chanting in most Buddhist countries is in a dead language, or at least, a highly unintelligible one. The sound of Buddhist chanting is remarkably similar, even to the chanting of it in an unintelligible language. Singing the texts in English is more an activity of the objectifying mind than a meditative activity of the body.

One studies the sutras in translation or in its original language for intellectual meaning. One chants the sutras for body understanding. One is theory, the other is practice. Both wings need to flap in balance for the Kalavinka (bird of the Pure Land) to fly. Our ego makes us control freaks; we want to understand things from our own point of view, in our own way, in our own time, and in circumstances under which we are able to control. Chanting is learning to join the flow not control it. And in that flow there is nothing to do but to appreciate and enjoy.

The next natural activity then is to eat together. Traditionally this eating together is called Otoki which simply means "time" to eat. It means to eat together and appreciate and enjoy each other's company. When a true sense of connection takes place, true harmony is realized. When true harmony is realized, there is nothing better to do than to appreciate and enjoy each other's company while eating. By tradition the meal was light, usually vegetarian so as to remind us of the difference between eating and gluttony.

Itadaki masu with gassho
Tatsuya Aoki



Inside this issue:

Rev. Aoki	1
Events Calendar	2
Fraser Valley News	3
Dharma School	3
Shotsuki List	4
BCC Update	5

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, March 4, 10:00 am
Toban Meeting

Sunday, March 12, 10:30 am
VBC Spring Higan and March Monthly Memorial Service.

Wednesday, March 15, 11:00 am
Monthly service at Nikkei Home
(Rev. Aoki)

Saturday, March 18, 1:00 pm—2:30 pm
Seminar on “Rites and Rituals of a Buddhist Funeral” at the National Nikkei Heritage Centre (6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby). Pre-registration is advised through the NNHC (604) 777-7000.

Thursday, March 23, 10:30 am
Seitoku High School Band Concert. 48 girl high school band from Matsudoshi in Chiba Prefecture will be giving a performance at the Vancouver Buddhist Church as part of their visit to Canada. All members are welcome to attend.

Saturday, March 24—25, starting at 9:00 am
Preparations for the Spring Bazaar. Volunteers are needed to help prepare for the Annual Spring Bazaar. For more information, call the office at (604) 253-7033.

Sunday, March 26, 6:00 am
Preparations for the Spring Bazaar. Preparations start early in the morning as we do the final preparations for the Bazaar. Volunteers are needed.

Sunday, March 26, 12:00 am
VBC Spring Bazaar—doors open at noon. Enjoy a bowl of hot udon. Sushi, manju, teriyaki, and much, much, more.
No morning service will be held this day.

Sunday, April 2, 10:30 am
Steveston Buddhist Temple’s Hanamatsuri Service at 4360 Garry St., Richmond. Morning service at Vancouver is cancelled as Rev. Aoki will be the guest minister at the Steveston Hanamatsuri

Sunday, April 9, 11:00 am
Vancouver Buddhist Church Hanamatsuri Service and Hatsumairi Ceremony. Celebrate the birth of the Buddha (Hanamatsuri) and also welcome new children to the Sangha (Hatsumairi)

Sunday, April 9, afternoon
Keiroukai Party. Immediately following the Hanamatsuri Service and Hatsumairi Ceremony, the members of the Vancouver Buddhist Church will be honoring its seniors at its annual Keiroukai Luncheon. Everyone is welcome. If you are a senior and a member of the Vancouver Buddhist Church, please contact the office to register for your gifts.

Sunday, April 16, 10:30 am
April Shotsuki (Monthly Memorial) Service

Dharma School Update

The guest origami artist was unable to make the paper folding demonstration scheduled for Sunday, February 19th. Fortunately, we had an accomplished origami practitioner within our sangha, Brian North, who kindly stepped in at the last moment. Judging from the paper folded cranes, and little favor boxes filled with “okaki” that were seen after the session, the Dharma School students had a successful and enjoyable time doing origami. Thank you Brian for your help.

We saw a new face at the origami workshop – Mrs. Yasuko Komori’s granddaughter, Megan, who came with her grandmother and mother. Megan was en route back home to Vancouver Island and was catching the afternoon ferry from Horseshoe Bay. We would like to invite all parents and grandparents to bring their children and grandchildren to Dharma School for any and all special occasions appropriate to children as a way of introducing them to the Dharma. Megan was bent over the table doing her paper folding to the very end!

Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple News

The incessant rain has finally stopped (for awhile) and we look forward to brighter days ahead.

We were very honored to have Rev. and Mrs. Kyojo Ikuta visit our Temple for a special service on Saturday, January 28. Rev. Ikuta gave an inspiring Dharma talk as well as giving us some valuable historical information about the original building of our Temple and of our Buddha statue. We found out that our Buddha is the oldest remaining statue sent to North America from Japan in the 1950's and was made over 700 years ago. It is truly a treasure that we are privileged to have. Rev. Ikuta spoke to us seated in the altar area as he was not able to stand for long at the podium and it was like a flashback to another era; a wonderful image of a teacher passing on the Buddha's teaching. The only unfortunate thing was that it wasn't captured on camera. Socho Fujikawa, Rev. Kikuchi of Steveston and our own Rev. Aoki were also present which made it all the more meaningful. After the service we enjoyed our New Year's potluck luncheon which as always was a feast.

Our regular monthly service was held on Saturday, Feb. 11, then on Wed. evening, Feb. 22 we had a workshop on the Naijin (Shrine/Altar) with Rev. Aoki. Since many of us were not familiar with how to take care of the Altar or the significance of the various objects, it turned out to be a very informative workshop. We hope to continue with these kinds of sessions as it also stimulates general discussion on Buddhism.

On Sunday, February 26 some of our members will be joining with a group from the Vancouver Buddhist Church in attending Dharma Service at the Steveston Temple. As we are hoping to start our own Dharma School it will be a good opportunity to learn from the other Temples.

The next monthly service will be on Saturday, March 11 @ 2:00 pm followed by our Annual General Meeting. We hope all members will try to attend.

In gassho,
Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple

Shotsuki List—March

Sunday, March 12, 2006, 10:30 am

1953
Toyokichi Uyeyama
1958
Tatsumatsu Nakatani
1959
Iwa Kondo
Heikuro Kazao
1960
Kumataro Kotani
Shosaku Sugie
Sei Yoshida
1961
Yuji Maede
Kiku Saimoto
1962
Kiyoko Okano
Matsunosuke Shinde
Kiju Yamada
1963
... Nakashima
Shorin Nukina
1964
Yashiro Fujioka
(baby) Nishi
Hideko Omori
1965
Hisao Tanaka
Sutejiro Yada
1966
Genshiro Sakiyama
1968
Matsugoro Ishida
1969
Tsurumatsu Kamei
Tsuneki Kitagawa
Shigetaro Nishi
Yoshihiro Okano
1970
Tsutomu Terashita
1971
Sukeyemon Arakawa
Yoshizo Hama
Saki Matsumoto
Kiyotada Takahara
Toyemon Urabe
1972
Akino Tatsumoto
Shina Uyeyama
Haru Yamamoto
1974—33rd Year
Katao Hagihara
Mary Imamura

Natsu Mizuno
Kunizo Yamasaki
1975
Yoshihisa Ogawa
Roy Jowett
1976
Koichi Chiba
Mima Mishima
Tajiro Mochizuki
Yuzo Suyeyoshi
1977
Inosuke Uyeyama
1979
Tamejiro Hayashi
1980
Chiyoye Nishi
1982—25th Year
Minoru Omoto
Danjo Saruyama
1983
Masako Kobayashi
1984
Yoshie Kawabata
Tatsushiro Matsubara
Kanichiro Yoshida
1985
Kimi Tanaka
1986
Haru Hanazawa
Kihei Otsuji
1987
Masuhiro Harada
Nikichi Nishi
Toji Sokugawa
Kazuo Takeshita
Naoki Takeuchi
Hatsuye Yamake
Kozue Yamashita
1988
Masaru Morishita
Fumiye Yamashita
1989
Sumeko Furugori
Yoshiye Teranishi
1991
Toshio Mizuyabu
Tamiyo Takahashi
1993
Toshio Hagane
Shomi Hayashi
Hideo Kondo
Jiroemon Noda
Hitoshi Oya

1994—13th Year
Takuyo Kurozumi
Shigeto Okada
1995
Jeff Morris
Masaichi Takeda
Ryuzo Takii
Shichiro Takimoto
Taiichi Yabuno
1996
Rhotaro Horii
Tami Shimizu (in Japan)
1997
Yosaburo Hayashi
Yone Mukuda
Sachiko Richardson
Shigeyo Ui
1998
Aki Ito
Sue Kaita
Takashi Tomiye
Frank Ejima
Sato Katsumoto

1999
Onobu Yamakami
2000—7th Year
Yoshiharu Soga
Hiroko Chibana
Matsu Tanaka
Thomas Fuchihara
Chie Okano
Archie Miyashita
2002
Toshikazu Kobayakawa
2004—3rd year
Haruye Okubo
Miyako Tatsumi
2005—1st year
Fujiye Hirai
Toshio Shimizu
Toshio Matsubara
Ryoko Asaoka

After many long years of leading the VBC Funeral Committee, Mr. Cy Saimoto has retired from the position of chairperson of the committee. The Vancouver Buddhist Church thanks Mr. Saimoto for his dedication and efforts which meant so much to many families of our Sangha. Dr. Bob Akune will be the new chairperson for the Funeral Committee.
Gokurosama



With Deepest Sympathies....

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

Masao Nishimura January 31
Dick Sadao Nakata February 17



BCC Update— February 2005

*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
bccheadquarters@axion.net or office@bcc.ca web: www.bcc@bcc.ca*

A friend of mine who was not Buddhist once told me enviously that Buddhism has a great concept of Nirvana. I don't know what he meant, but doesn't it sound good, Nir-va-na?

According to my understanding, it has several meanings depending on the usage.

- 1) 1) At the age of 35 years Gautama Siddhartha discovered Buddha-nature deep in his mind; the source of gentleness, compassion, and peace-loving. This was his first experience of Nirvana. Since then, whenever he went into meditation, the Buddha-nature started to work in his thought, speech, and his action. So he was able to live as a living Buddha.
- 2) 2) Nirvana literally means to blow out. It means the state that all the contaminated delusions have been extinguished. Therefore, when Shakyamuni closed 80 years of human life on February 15th, we also say he attained Nirvana in its complete sense. In Jodo Shinshu tradition, when a person of Namoamidabutsu passes away, this person enters Nirvana and becomes a Buddha in the Pure Land thanks to the Compassionate Vow of Amida Buddha.
- 3) 3) Third meaning is very liberal and broad in the context that we all live in the universe of Nirvana. Especially in the Pure Land tradition Amida Buddha is the Buddha of infinite light and life. In another word, this Buddha exists wherever and whenever and it is synonym of Nirvana. All of us sentient beings live and die in the embrace of Amida Buddha.

Also important philosophy in Buddhism is that there is no such thing as hell. The Buddha advised us not to create a hell by our own actions.

Congratulations to Kiyoshi and Chiyoko Suga in Montreal for their 60th Wedding Anniversary recently.

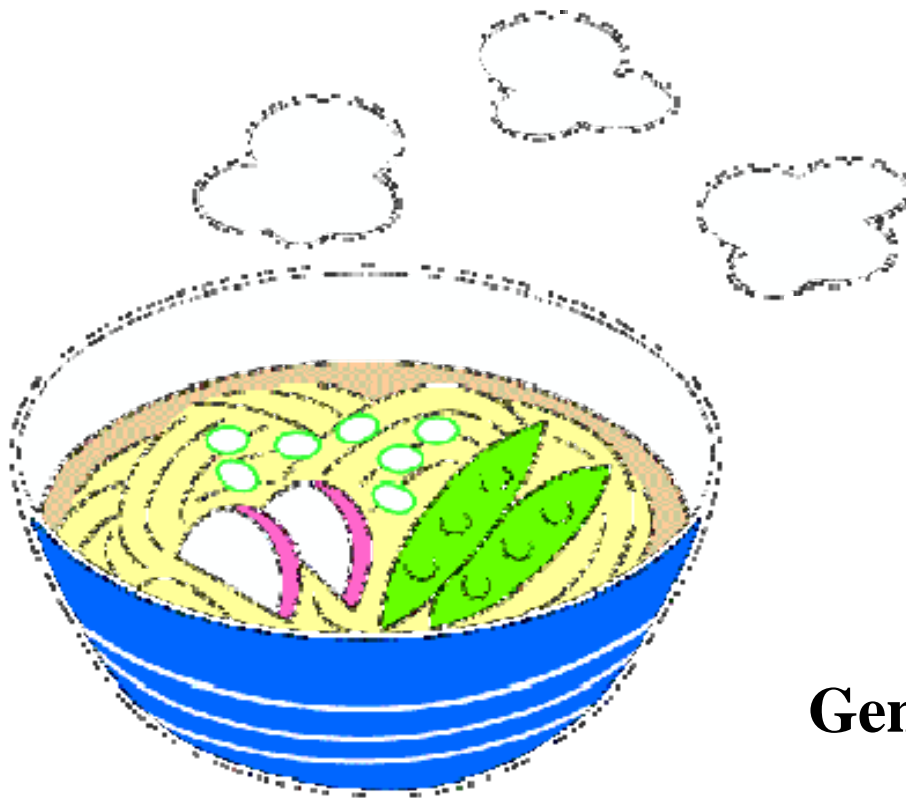
Coming events

- March 18 Ohigan Service in Nanaimo, B.C.
- 19 Cemetery visitation in Victoria, B.C.
- April 15-16 Toronto Buddhist Temple
- 22 Hamilton Buddhist Temple
- 23 Montreal Buddhist Temple
- 27-30 BCC AGM in Toronto
- May 13-14 50th Anniversary of Calgary Buddhist Temple
- 25-26 World Jodo Shinshu Coordinating Council in Kyoto
- June 3-4 60th Anniversary of Manitoba Buddhist Temple
- July 21- Aug 10 Ryukoku Summer School in Steveston

Hatsumairi / Infant Presentation Sunday, April 9, 11:00 am

Families with babies or very young children are invited to participate in the Vancouver Buddhist Church Hatsumairi / Infant Presentation Ceremony. In this ceremony, parents formally present their young child to the Buddha and to the Sangha. For more information or to register your child, please contact Rev. Aoki at the temple (604) 253-7033

Vancouver Buddhist Church
SPRING BAZAAR
MARCH 26, 2006



Udon
Teriyaki
Temaki
Sushi
Manju
General Goods
Plants
Books

12:00 noon doors open

VANCOUVER BUDDHIST CHURCH
220 Jackson Ave., Vancouver (604) 253-7033
www.vancouverbuddhistchurch.ca

Donations

The Vancouver Buddhist Church gratefully acknowledges the following donations. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Nirvana Day Service – February 12, 2006

10.00 Mrs. Yoshie Kurita, M/M Dick Nakata, Mrs. Chieko Nishi, Mrs. Keiko Oyama, Mrs. T. Yamashita, Mrs. Kinuye Mori
20.00 Mrs. Brad Bishop, Mrs. S. Hamaguchi, M/M. Frank Hamanishi, M/M. John Harada, M/M K. Kitano, Mrs. Kay Komori,
Mrs. Yasuko Komori, M/M Min Koyanagi, M/M K. Koyanagi, Mrs. P. Meugens, M/M Y. Matsumoto, M/M H. Mizuta, M/M T.
Mizushima, M/M Kazuo Mori, Ms. C. Nishikawa, M/M S. Natsukoshi, Mrs. Emily Nomura, M/M Robert North, Mr. Reiso Okada
(Nirvana Day & New Year's party), Ms. D. Saimoto, Mr. Roy Tatsumi, M/M. Tsutomu Omoto, M/M Kazuma Sakata, Mrs. Tsu-
neko Soyama, M/M Kanji Suga, Ms. Noriko Sugimoto, M/M G. Yoneda, Ms. Marg Yoshida
25.00 Mrs. Helen Tajiri
30.00 Ms. Tomi Niwatsukino, Mrs. June Ohori, Ms. Kazuye Yoshida
50.00 D/M. R. Akune
20.00 M/M K. Takahara (Nirvana Day/New Year's service, Mrs. Sachi Rummel)
Nirvana Day Service Total - \$825.00

Monthly Memorial – February 12, 2006

5.00 M/M Narhari Joshi – father's memorial
10.00 M/M M. Hattori, M/M E. Taguchi (Satoru Taguchi memorial), Mrs. Kiyoe Yada
20.00 M/M S. Hamagami-(memory of Bunkichi Nasu), Mr. Tim Hirata, Mrs. T. Inouye, Mrs. Matsuko Kazuta, Mrs. Mary Ka-
wamoto, M/M James Leung-(memory of grandparents), M/M Bill Kajiwara (memory of Mrs. T. Kajiwara), M/M Henry Low,
Mrs. Tsuyako Noda, Mrs. Toshiko Nasu, Mrs. Wallace Oyama, M/M Jack Matsuda (memory of mother, Makino Matsuda), M/M
D. Minamata (Takeji Takeno 25th memorial), M/M Dick Nakata (Genjiro Ikeda memorial), Mrs. Yachiyo Nishi, M/M Kazuma
Sakata, Mrs. Fumiyo Saruya, MR. Tosh Nomura (mother, Kinu Nomura memorial), Mrs. Yukiko Okano, Mrs. Miyoko Nose
(memory of father), M/M Kanji Suga, Mrs. Etsuko Takata, Mr. Roy Tatsumi, Mrs. Toyoko Terada, M/M. Tamotsu Teranishi,
Mrs. Keiko Oyama(late husband shotsuki), Mrs. Masuko Takeno (Takeji Takeno 25th memorial), M/M Shizuo Tanaka (father's
shotsuki), M/M Roy Tanaka (Tomijiro Tanaka shotsuki), M/M. K. Uyeyama, Isao Yamamoto
25.00 M/M. Kats Nasu (memory of Bunkichi Nasu), Ms. Kazuko Shimizu – Toronto ON – (memory of Mrs. Miyako Tatsumi),
Mr. Ken Hirakida (memory of Ed Hirakida)
30.00 Mrs. Yukiko Akao (memory of mother, Kusuye Yamashita), M/M Hideo Chiya, Mrs. T. Nakano, M/M Yukio Nasu, Mrs.
Sumie Tanaka, Mrs. Kazue Kozaka (husband Yoshinari shotsuki), M/M Otokazu Matsui (memory of Mrs. Saono Asaoka), M/M
Kaoru Tanaka (memory of Tomijiro Tanaka), M/M Kaoru Minato (memory of Kenji Minato)
40.00 Mrs. M. Banno (Nehanye & memory of Mrs. Shizu Banno), M/M K. Homma/Kitagawa (memory of grandfather, Glileda),
Mr. Edward Oyama
50.00 D/M. R.S. Akune (memory of uncle, Hideo Yada, 3rd year), M/M Preston Chan (memory of George Shoji Oyama), Mrs.
Misuko Kadota, M/M Terry Koyanagi, M/M Keith Tsukishima, M/M Mitsuru Tanaka (Harry Yada 3rd year), Mr. Brian Minato
(memory of Umeko Minato 1st year & Kenji Minato), Mr. Ai Minato (as above), Ms Frances Minato (as above), Ms. Tomi Ni-
watsukino (memory of brother, Minoru), Ms Komei Uyeyama- Kamloops- (memory of cousin, Fumiko Hanazawa), Mrs. Masako
Yada (shotsuki for Hideo Yada & Mrs. Kinuye Yada)
75.00 Mrs. Eleanore Kondo & Ms. Fumie Kondo (shotsuki for father & brother, Hideo), E. Mauser-Wong (memory of Fumiko
Hanazawa)
100.00 M/M. Yuji & Sumiye Hamaguchi (memorial service for Teruko Hama), M/M Paul Kitamura (memory of Satoru Ta-
guchi), M/M. Michiho Urata (memory of Teru Urata 33rd year), Mrs. Yaeko Yoneda
150.00 Mrs. Haruo Minato (memory of Kenji Minato & Umeko Minato), M/M Sadao Minato (memory of Kenji & Umeko Mi-
nato & Haru Banno)
Shotsuki Hoyo Total Donations - \$2,570.00

New Year's Party Donations

20.00 Mrs. Miwako Kasuya, M/M K. Kitano, Ms Fumie Nakagawa, Mrs. Shoko Nakagawa, Mrs. Yachiyo Nishi, M/M Kazuma
Sakata, Mrs. Akiko Tsuji, Mrs. Shigeo Urata
25.00 Mrs. Emmie Hirata
New Year's Party Total - \$185.00

(Donations—continued)

Konshi

20.00 Mrs. Hatsue Kobuke, Mrs. Tomiko Jowett, Mr. Minoru Oyama, M/M Toshio Uyeyama, Mrs. Kiyoko Yada, Mrs. Kiyoe Yada

10.00 Mrs. Tsuyako Noda

20.00 Mr. Hitoshi Mitsui – memorial donation

Total Konshi - \$150.00