



THE SANGHA STREAM

February 2025

MINISTER ARTICLE

This month we are observing Nirvana Day during our service on Sunday, February 9th. Nirvana Day is one of the three observances commemorating the life of the historical Buddha, Sakyamuni. The other two observances are his birth, Hanamatsuri, which takes place in April and his awakening, Bodhi Day, which takes place in December. Nirvana Day marks the death of the Buddha, the time when he crossed over from this shore of Samsara to the shore of Nirvana at the age of eighty. If you have never considered the influential power of words and why it is important for each of us to choose our words wisely, I believe the teachings of the Buddha help us to understand the impact that the power of words play in our life. For forty-five years Sakyamuni Buddha shared the Dharma with his followers using words to help them understand the reality of life. Over 2,500 years later those same words, the Buddha’s teachings, continue to be a guiding light today for Buddhist followers around the world.

In the Dhammapada, a collection of Sakyamuni Buddha’s teachings, we find his words of wisdom regarding the words we speak and the truth of karma. The truth that our present karma, whether kind or unkind, create ripple effects that shape our future experiences. Referring to verse #133: *“Speak quietly to everyone, and they too will be gentle in their speech. Harsh words hurt and come back to the speaker.”* The Buddha believed that everyone wants to be happy and free from suffering. He taught that by being kind, like speaking quietly to everyone, we create ripple effects that help make the world a happier place. The Loving-Kindness (Metta) meditation, *“May all beings be well, happy, and peaceful”* is a practice which develops the heart and mind to act with kindness for oneself and others. Even small acts of kindness like speaking quietly make a big difference. When we can extend kindness to others, we divert our attention away from self-centeredness and develop a deeper sense of interconnectedness. Kindness is a deep spiritual practice that leads to and supports inner peace. The Buddha’s teachings are about creating compassion and harmony in the world and our personal acts of kindness can create ripples inspiring others to engage in similar behavior. Let us try to inspire others through speaking quietly with words that uplift, encourage, and heal. May we continue to be inspired by the Buddha-Dharma to live a life of kindness which can shed a light on what it means to live a meaningful and Nembutsu life.

Namo-Amida-Butsu

Robert Gubenco Sensei



Calgary Buddhist Temple

658-1st Ave N.E.
Calgary, Alberta

Telephone: (1)403-263-5723

www.calgary-buddhist.ab.ca



FEBRUARY 2025 MEMORIAL (SHOTSUKI) SERVICE LIST

Robin Cruickshank
Joe Fukumoto
Daniel Ghann
Kuranosuke Gomyo
Alice Kimura
Bruce Kimura

Toyomatsu Kimura
Donna Lane
Julia Martin
Akira Masuda
Kideo Matsumoto

George Nakamura
Ritsuko Nishikawa
Chieko Louise Nishiyama
Larry Sakamoto
Carl Yoshimoto

TEMPLE SERVICE REMINDERS

FEBRUARY SERVICES

- Sunday, February 2nd - Shotsuki/Monthly Memorial Service at 10:00 am
- Tuesday, February 4th – Meditation (walking and seated) from 7:00 to 8:15 pm
- Sunday, February 9th – Nirvana Day (Nehan-e) Service at 10:00 am
- Tuesday, February 11th – Buddhism 101 Lecture from 7:00 to 8:00 pm
- Sunday, February 16th - Family Service at 10:00 am
- Tuesday, February 18th – Buddhism 101 Lecture from 7:00 to 8:00 pm
- Tuesday, February 25th – Buddhism 101 Lecture from 7:00 to 8:00 pm

2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, April 13, 2025 shortly after service (11:15 am)

Our annual general meeting will be held on April 13, 2025 shortly after service (11:15 -11:30AM). We will go over the temple finances, talk about events/highlight of the past year, discuss and vote on key issues and elect a new board of directors.

We expect it to run for about 30 to 45 minutes. Attending the AGM is a good way to become more familiar with how the temple is run and to ask any questions or voice concerns. A zoom meeting will be set up for those who wish to attend online. Further details on this will follow.

If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a board member, please contact Jean at j.masuda95@gmail.com



PLEASE SUBSCRIBE, SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN OUR SANGHA

The 2025 Calgary Buddhist Temple membership form is now available (see last page of the newsletter). Please consider taking out a membership to help support the temple. Membership is required for voting privileges at the Calgary Buddhist Temple.

Please note that of the \$150 Membership fee, \$100 goes to our national organization, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC). The JSBTC consists of volunteer board members from temples across Canada; it provides funding for the Bishop (Socho) of Canada, funding and management of health and wellness benefits for ministers, leadership through the Living Dharma Centre, and financial and investment oversight.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Sunday, Feb 2, 2025

CALGARY
DROP-IN
CENTRE

A great way to support our community and start the new year off right. We'll be providing lunch service, so volunteers (16 years of age or older) are needed. We leave after service from the Temple around 11:15am and walk over to the Drop-In Centre together or meet us there at 11:30am. This is such a meaningful way to think of others!

Sign Up by going to: <https://bit.ly/DropIn-02Feb25>

A CHAT WITH OUR RETIRED MINISTERS


Saturday, Feb 15, 2025 || 2PM

The Women's Federation is pleased to present this informal talk host by Rev. Grant Ikuta from the Steveston Buddhist Temple.


JSBTC Women's Federation
Presents
"A Chat with our Retired Ministers"
on Saturday, February 15, 2025
1:00pm PST, 2:00pm MST, 4:00pm EST

In this video presentation Rev. Grant Ikuta will be leading a discussion with two of our retired ministers, Rev. Orai Fujikawa and Rev. James Martin
To register please e-mail JSBTCWF@gmail.com

Rev. Orai Fujikawa
Birth: Oct 30 1941 Hiroshima Japan
Osaka Univ 1960-64 and Ryukoku Univ 1964-67
1968 Buddhist Churches of Alberta
1970 Interior BC: Kelowna, Vernon, Kamloops
1980 Toronto
1994 Vancouver
2003 Headquarters in Richmond
2010 Retired from JSBTC
2012 Salinas in California
2016 Retired in Vancouver, BC



Rev. James Martin
I was born and raised in Neepawa, Manitoba
Later in life, while on a holiday to various parts of Asia, I encountered Buddhism and felt an immediate connection.
After returning to Canada, I started attending the Jodo Shinshu Temple in Calgary and eventually committed to becoming a full time teacher. Training has consisted of Tokudo and Kikyoshi sessions in Kyoto, Japan followed by additional studies at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley CA.
In 2008 I was honored to be offered the opportunity to take on the role of Sensei at the Calgary Buddhist Temple until I retired in 2019. I now divide my time between Winnipeg and Calgary as the grandkids are here and there and I want to stay in touch and as close as possible. It is getting more difficult though as of course the body is wearing out and managing healthcare in two different provinces is challenging.





UDON AND A MATINEE

Sunday, Feb 16, 2025 || 11:30 AM

Noodles are a staple of Japanese cuisine, and udon is a thick noodle leaning closer to a “mochi-mochi” or chewy and glutinous texture. There are a variety of ways it is prepared and served but its simplest form, it is in a soup which we’ll be sharing for a light lunch. A variety of condiments that can be added to the soup will be provided.

After we’ve eaten and cleaned-up a bit, we’ll watch a family movie (to be determined) as well as the movie Tora (2010; 30 minutes).

Tora follows a jaded city woman who inherits a lakeside property and is haunted by a little ghost girl. Through dreams and flashbacks of her new neighbor (David Suzuki), she discovers that the property was a Japanese Internment Camp during WWII and that the little girl died while in the camp. Themes of loss, hope and forgiveness are explored.



Everyone is welcome with a \$5/person donation suggested.

Please register in advance so we know how many people to expect: <https://bit.ly/udon-matinee>

We gratefully acknowledge support from the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society.

SPRING IKEBANA CLASS

March 8th, 22nd, April 5 and 19, May 3 || 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Classes will be held on Saturday afternoons at The Calgary Buddhist Temple from 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

The 5 classes are a series and the cost is \$250 total including flower material and instruction for Temple members or \$300 for non-members. No refunds for missed classes.

Students must supply their own containers (please ask Rika for a suitable size and shape), scissors and kenzan (frog). Contact Rika if you need help selecting your items but these are not supplied as part of the lesson.

Rika Saruwatari trained under Ms. Takako Yokoyama, and became a certified Shihan (teacher) in 2012.

光風未生流 (Kofu misho school ikebana) classes

- March 8 and 22
- April 5 and 19
- May 3

Rika's contact info koufuikebana@gmail.com or call 403-701-0390





JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY

Sunday, March 23, 2025 | 2:00-4:00pm



Would you like to experience Japanese calligraphy, and try for yourself this popular and beautiful part of Japanese art and culture? The Calgary Buddhist Temple Sangha Engagement will be hosting a Japanese Calligraphy workshop with a fully qualified Master Calligraphy Instructor, Mami Humphreys of Sho Artworks. After learning the basics and how to use the tools, you will have a chance to practise, by using an example, and you get to take your piece home with you too!

All materials will be included, and registration opens on Feb 1 at a cost of \$10.00/person + small processing fee. Space is limited so don't miss out! We look forward to your participation.

To signup, go to <https://bit.ly/Sangha-Calligraphy>. We gratefully acknowledge support from the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society.

THE WAR BETWEEN US – FREE MOVIE EVENT

Sunday, April 13, 2025 | 2:00-4:00pm

The Calgary Buddhist Temple is honored to present a special screening of *The War Between Us*, a thought-provoking film that follows the journey of a Japanese-Canadian family who are forcibly displaced and interned as enemy aliens in British Columbia during World War II. Anne Wheeler is the film's acclaimed director, and we are fortunate that she will be available in-person after the film for a Q&A session.

The movie is a reminder of the importance of compassion and understanding in times of conflict, and of the devastating impact of war on ordinary people.

The War Between Us is a 1995 drama with a runtime of 1 hour and 34 minutes.

The showing is FREE and open to the Public.

Please register in advance so we know how many people to expect: <https://bit.ly/WarBetweenUs>



JAPANESE
CANADIAN
LEGACIES



**Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness
Fund Society Update**



Reminder: JCSHWFS Grant Application Deadline March 31, 2025

The Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness Grant Program is open until March 31, 2025. Please help us spread the word to eligible friends and families including those living in Canada and abroad.

- Grant information, eligibility criteria and the online application form are available here: <https://jcwellness.org/apply/>
- Outreach Workers are available to support Survivors with the application process: <https://jcwellness.org/outreachworkers/>
- Frequently asked questions: <https://jcwellness.org/#faq>

A Survivor is defined as a living person of Japanese descent born prior to April 1, 1949 who was directly impacted by BC Government actions in the 1940s. Survivors include persons who were not displaced but were living in BC, and persons who, after their families left BC, were born prior to April 1, 1949, which was the day Japanese Canadians were given full voting rights and the legal restrictions used to control the movement of Japanese Canadians were removed.

Survivors do not have to have been in an internment camp to qualify. They may have been sent to self-supporting camps, road camps, or POW camps, already lived somewhere else in BC outside the 100-mile radius, were sent to sugar beets farms out of province, were born outside of BC after their family left BC, or repatriated to Japan, etc.

Survivors that currently reside outside of Canada are eligible to apply if they can prove that they have roots in British Columbia prior to April 1, 1949. Japanese translation assistance is available. Validation of identification will be a virtual interview (Zoom or Microsoft Teams).

Your assistance to locate eligible Survivors is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your ongoing support.

With warm regards,
JCSHWFS Team

For enquiries, please contact our JCSHWF General Phone/Toll-free phone or email
General Phone: 250-797-6300
Toll-Free phone: 1-833-368-6462
Email: help@jcwellness.org

List of Outreach Workers: JC Wellness Outreach Workers



PAST WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

MOCHI COME MY WAY

What a great way to start off the New Year! On Sunday, Jan 19, there was a great turn-out for this event at the Temple and it was so much fun doing this together.

Not only did everyone have an opportunity to form the hot mochi but we were treated to sampling it plain, with shoyu and sugar, anko/red bean paste, nori/seaweed, kinako/soybean powder, in oshiruko/red bean soup, or around a strawberry. We were also treated to mochi donuts!

Mochi is considered a symbol of good luck and prosperity, and wish everyone a happy, healthy, and wonderous 2025! And a huge thank you to all the many hands.

SANGHA ENGAGEMENT

The Japanese Canadian Legacies Society (JCLS) Community Fund - Community Projects is supporting the Calgary Buddhist Temple Sangha Engagement with a grant in 2025 which we deeply appreciate.

Sangha Engagement is excited to bring people together as a community or Sangha by providing opportunities to engage and share the rich Japanese culture and heritage.

The Community Fund addresses the enduring intergenerational impact that BC government actions had on the Japanese Canadian community. The Community suffered a loss of identity as a result of the uprooting, dispossession, and displacement. The Community Fund invests in the future of the Japanese Canadian community by allocating funds to six project streams: community projects, arts, sports, scholarships, infrastructure, and intergenerational wellness. The Community Projects stream seeks to support community-led projects that promote Japanese or Japanese Canadian culture or opportunities for Japanese Canadians to connect with each other and/or their culture or identity. For more information about JCLS, please visit <http://jclegacies.com>



**JAPANESE
CANADIAN
LEGACIES**



LIBRARY NEWS

The library is open on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Come downstairs after the service and browse the books while you enjoy a cup of tea!

For any newcomers to the temple, it is easy to join our library. For \$20.00, you get a lifetime membership. The book loan period is 3 months. Please see me if you are interested in joining. I will be at the library anytime it is open.

Books can be returned in our Library Book Returns box, which is in the basement next to the bookshelves.



If you have books on Buddhism that you would like to donate to the library, we are very grateful to accept donations!

Thanks, Kim and Masaye

DECEMBER DONATIONS

Canada Helps

Giggs, Melanie
Haddon, Samantha
Howard, Leslie
Iftody, Thomas
Klatt, Kenneth

In memory of Rev. Izumi

McCullagh, Bob
Miyanishi, Kiyoko
Post, David
Robson, Tomiko
Shikaze, Sher and Howie

Stewart, Matthew
Sugimoto, Laura
Sugimoto, Sumire
Wright, Charlene
Zheng, Yifan

Temple Donations

Alexander, Robert and
Sano, Tracee
Annoymous
Auld, Belle
Bowman, James
Cooper, Laurie Anne
Delisle, Yuri
Faizuddin, Gulam
Hironaka, Doug
Hironaka, Russell

Kitagawa, Susan
Miquelon, Dixie
Masuda, Jean
Masuda, Misae
McCormack, Daniel
Miyanishi, Kiyoko
Oishi, Jits
Oshiro, Evan

Ota, Fumi
Nishi, Mary
Pittman, Craig & Cathy
Porteous, Angela M
Rogers, Travis
Takeda, L.
Takeda, N.
Tanaka, Masaye
Tsukishima, Lloyd
Wright, Charlene

南無阿彌陀佛



CALGARY BUDDHIST TEMPLE

www.calgary-buddhist.ab.ca

2025 CBT Membership

Please take a few moments to complete the attached form and return it to the temple. Cheques can be made out to The Calgary Buddhist Temple. Mailing address: 207-6th St N.E. Calgary, Alberta T2E 3Y1. Tel: (403) 263-5723. Alternately, membership fee payments can be made online through [Canada Helps](https://canadahelps.org/en/dn/39361) (canadahelps.org/en/dn/39361) or via e-transfer (calgarybuddhisttemple@gmail.com). Just make sure to write "membership" in the message field. PDFs of completed forms can then be emailed to calgarybuddhisttemple@gmail.com.

Name:

Name:

Address: Line 1

Address: Line 2

City, Province,

Postal Code:

Telephone:

E-mail:

- Full Membership (\$150 per member)
- Student (Under 18) Membership –No Charge

Check to receive the CBT newsletter if you do not already receive it

_____ by email

_____ by mail

_____ Please contact me regarding volunteering