



## THE SANGHA STREAM

January 2026

### 2026 GOMONSHU SAMA'S GREETING

At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to you all.

In recent years, starting with Japan, but also throughout the world there have been a rash of natural disasters such as typhoons, torrential rains, earthquakes, and large-scale forest fires which has created enormous damage. I would like to convey my deepest condolences to those who lost their lives through natural disasters and express my sympathy to everyone affected. My wish is for all who are affected to be able to return to peaceful daily lives as soon as possible.

Last year, we marked a milestone as it was 80 years since the end of WWII. In July, I had the opportunity to join memorial services in Okinawa, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki, areas that were deeply affected by the war. I was grateful to have been able to meet with some of the survivors of the war and to hear their stories. In 1995, on the occasion of the 50th



Anniversary of the end of WWII and the memorial to remember those who lost their lives during the war, Sokunyo Monshu stated, "Prior to the beginning of the war, going against the teachings of Shinran Shonin, the Hongwanji using the name of the Buddha Dharma, took an active role in promoting Japan's war efforts. This is a fact we cannot deny, and in the presence of Amida Buddha, I cannot but to express my regret and shame." With these words, Sokunyo Monshu took responsibility for actions done by the Hongwanji organization prior to WWII. Keeping these sentiments firmly in my heart, I would like to go forward by rededicating our pursuit for peace.

Following the conclusion of WWII, the Hongwanji Organization did not shy away from admitting their active role in promoting the war effort. With humility and repentance, it has strived to create a society where all beings can live in peace.



With sincerity in our hearts, we must continue to strive for peace and not repeat the errors that were committed in WWII. Presently, there are wars and conflicts ongoing in various regions throughout the world, where countless precious lives are being threatened. In such a world, let us be mindful of the words of Shinran Shonin, "Let there be Peace in the world, and let the Buddha Dharma grow". Together, let us move forward day by day.

January 1, 2026

OHTANI Kojun

Monshu

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

### NEW YEAR'S GREETING FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



As we step into 2026, I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to you and to the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist community in Canada. May this year be filled with peace, harmony, and the radiant light of Amida Buddha's compassion. In these times of challenge and change, the teachings of Jodo Shinshu continue to guide and inspire us, reminding us of the impermanence of all things and the boundless compassion of the Buddha's vow. May we walk together on the path of wisdom and mindfulness, finding solace in the Nembutsu and deepen our understanding of interconnectedness.

I am deeply grateful for your support of your Senseis and the dedication you show to nurturing spiritual growth and fostering unity within the Sangha. May our efforts continue to bring comfort, joy, and gratitude to all those you serve. Wishing you a fulfilling New Year, filled with peace, health, and compassion.

In gassho,  
Rev. Tatsuya Aoki  
Bishop, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada

旧年中は大変お世話になりました。カナダ開教区を代表して、謹んで御礼と新春のお慶び申し上げます。

今年も阿弥陀如来のお慈悲を感じ、お智慧に照らされ、みなさまと一緒に仏道を歩ませていただきます。今年も開教使の先生と仏教会のサポートをよろしくお願ひ申し上げます。

合掌 青木龍也



JSBTC AGM in Toronto—April 2025



## MINISTER ARTICLE JANUARY 2026

Happy New Year! A new year often means a time to reflect on what we hope to bring into the months ahead. We often think about resolutions, goals, or changes we want to make. And although our resolutions are typically personal what we may not consider is how they will ripple outwards. Last year one of the wise teachings a day from our Buddhist calendar reminded us that “A single torch can light a hundred thousand others”. This phrase teaches us that wisdom and compassion are never diminished when shared. Just as one flame can light countless candles without losing its brightness, every moment of understanding or kindness we offer becomes a source of light for others. A light that can inspire, comfort, and encourage the people around us.

A gentle word spoken today may ease someone’s burden tomorrow. A thoughtful gesture might give someone the courage to act with kindness in their own way. Even when we do not see the results directly, the ripples continue outward, shaping the world in ways we cannot measure.

The light that begins all lights is Amida Buddha’s boundless wisdom and compassion. Amida Buddha’s Light is unhindered, unobstructed, and reaches all beings without exception. Each time we say the Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu, we are reminded that we are embraced by a compassion far greater than our own. It is this light that allows our small acts to shine beyond our individual efforts.

As we begin the new year, may we remember that we do not generate our light alone. We are illuminated by Amida Buddha’s compassion, supported by countless causes and conditions, and connected with all beings. In this interdependent life, even one mindful action can brighten many paths.

May this year be filled with shared wisdom, growing compassion, and ripples of kindness flowing from one heart to another.

Namo-Amida-Butsu  
Robert Gubenco Sensei



Calgary Buddhist Temple

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## JANUARY 2026 MEMORIAL (SHOTSUKI) SERVICE LIST

The Calgary Buddhist Temple would like to offer its heartfelt condolences to the family members of the late:

Jane Hilton

December 1, 2025

79 Years

May the family members find comfort in the boundless compassion of Amida Buddha.

Namo Amida Butsu

## JANUARY 2026 MEMORIAL (SHOTSUKI) SERVICE LIST

Roy Bates  
Klement Danda  
Edna Fukumoto  
Clay Broen-Giggs  
Thich Nhat Hahn  
Marshall Hironaka

Barbara Kerry  
Kuni Kimura  
Heizo Kitagawa  
Richard Lawrie  
Marley Nichols

Howa Oshiro  
Glen Porteous  
Shinran Shonin  
Tomeo Takahashi  
Selene Tse  
Asaye Yamamoto

## TEMPLE SERVICE REMINDERS

### JANUARY SERVICES

- Thursday, January 1 st – New Year’s Day Service 12:30 pm
- Sunday, January 4th - Shotsuki/Monthly Memorial Service at 10:00 am
- Tuesday, January 6th – Meditation (walking and seated) from 7:00 to 8:00 pm
- Sunday, January 11th – Shinran Shonin’s Memorial Service (Hō-onkō) at 10:00 am
- Sunday, January 18th - Family Service at 10:00 am
- Sunday, January 25th - Service at 10:00 am

## 2026 CALGARY BUDDHIST TEMPLE MEMBERSHIP

### PLEASE SUBSCRIBE, SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN OUR SANGHA

The 2026 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

### NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM CBT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

2026 is the year of the HORSE.

The Calgary Buddhist Temple as a non-profit organization, relies on volunteers to achieve our goals and missions. Volunteers enhance and extend services, and assist to accomplish mutual objectives. Appreciation and gratitude are conveyed to all the volunteers who support the Calgary Buddhist Temple.

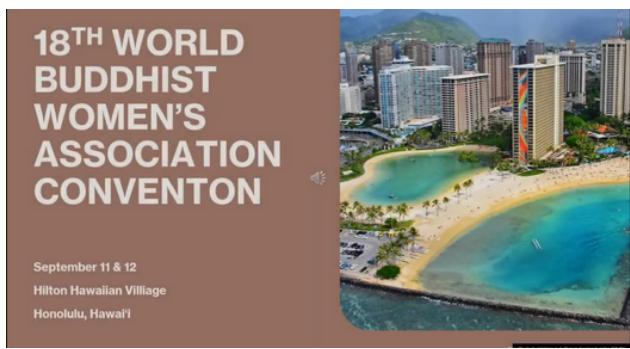
Thank you all fundraising volunteers for chow mein supper, gyoza and mein noodle making in 2025.

The October bake sale fundraiser was successful; bakers and cooks contributed beautifully presented delicious goodies. Many varieties of cakes, cookies, cupcakes, loaves, mochi cakes, muffins, pies, snack treats, squares, tarts, yeast sweet buns comprised the numerous donations. As usual, the mein noodles were a very popular choice. Regrets for not acknowledging everyone We did not receive contact information for donations of mochi cakes, cranberry pistachio bark and peanut butter macadamia chocolate chip cookies; Thank you to those individuals.

We are accepting Everything Japanese items throughout the year. You can email Mickey at  
mhkuta@outlook.com

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2026  
THANK YOU, MERCI, DOMO ARIGATO  
うとあもうど

### WOMEN'S FEDERATION CONVENTION



The Women's Federation is preparing for the upcoming convention to be held in Hawaii, September 10-12, 2027.

Check out the attached info. To see the daily activities, hotel / convention costs, entertainment.

In Gassho  
Laurie Takeda  
Womens Federation Leadership Committee



## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

### 2026 SPECIAL ONLINE DHARMA SESSION

- “Jodo Shinshu - Buddhism for our Modern Times”
- Guest Lecturer: Rev. Patricia Kanaya
- Date: February 21st, 2026, 1:00 pm (PST)
- To register please e-mail: [jsbtcwf@gmail.com](mailto:jsbtcwf@gmail.com)



### ***JSBTC Women's Federation 2026 Special Online Dharma Session***

***“Jodo Shinshu - Buddhism for our Modern Times”***

***Guest Lecturer: Rev. Patricia Kanaya***

***Date: February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 1:00 pm (PST)***



The JSBTC Women's Federation is honored to sponsor a special online Dharma Session with Rev. Patricia Kanaya on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, at 1:00 pm (PST).

In a turbulent and rapidly changing world that we live in, Rev. Kanaya will be giving a Dharma Talk on why, more than ever, is Jodo Shinshu the Buddhism for our modern times.

Born and raised in Toronto, Pat Sensei has led a fascinating life working first for the Government of Canada as a Public Servant and eventually finding her way to Japan where she was teaching

English. It is there that she encountered the teachings of Shinran Shonin and started her studies to become a Kaikyoshi minister. Upon completion of her studies, Pat Sensei served as a Kaikyoshi minister in the Buddhist Churches of America, where she served for 16 years as the resident minister at the San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. From 2018 – 2020, she also served as the Chair of the BCA Ministers' Association. In 2015, Rev. Kanaya was the keynote speaker for the World Buddhist Women's Convention which was hosted in Calgary by our own JSBTC Women's Federation. In 2023, Rev. Kanaya retired from the BCA and moved back to Canada and is currently residing in Ottawa, Ontario.

Please join us for what will surely be an insightful afternoon of the Buddha Dharma. Registration for the zoom link can be done through your local WF representative or through your temple office.



## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

### SANGHA ENGAGEMENT

With the temporary temple closure, the Sangha Engagement team has decided to wait on announcing the upcoming 2026 events and activities so stay-tuned! In the meantime, if you have any suggestions or ideas you'd like to see our sangha/community do or hold in 2026, please feel free to email [calgarytemplesangha@gmail.com](mailto:calgarytemplesangha@gmail.com)

As we welcome a new year filled with fresh beginnings, we reflect on the profound gratitude we feel for everyone who supports our Sangha. Your contributions to the Temple sustain the everyday efforts that keep our community vibrant and connected.

Dana, the practice of selfless giving, invites us to embrace each moment with openness and compassion echoing Shinran Shonin's enduring message of gratitude in our daily lives.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Volunteers are vital not only within the temple but in the community as well. Let's continue to think of others by providing lunch service at the Calgary Drop-In Centre. Volunteers must be 18+ to participate. We leave after service from the Temple around 11:15am and walk over to the Drop-In

Centre together or you can meet us there at 11:30am. We ask people to register to ensure we have the requested number of volunteers.

- Sunday, Feb 1 – to register: <https://bit.ly/Drop-In-01Feb26>
- Sunday, May 3 – to register: <https://bit.ly/Drop-In-03May26>

### Donation Centre (new)

On Sunday, March 1 from 1:00pm-4:00pm, volunteer with us at the Calgary Drop-In Centre Donation Centre. This family-friendly volunteer opportunity is for those 12 years of age or older. Volunteers may sort and manage donated goods like clothes, furniture, and electronics, test items, stock shelves, build kits (kitchen, hygiene), wrap gifts, help community members select items with dignity, and assist where needed. Varied tasks crucial for getting essential household goods to low-income individuals.

Please sign up and meet us at the Donation Centre (3640 11a Street NE Calgary) on March 1 – to register: <https://bit.ly/Drop-In-01Mar26>



## PAST WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

### SELFLESS GIVING

The selfless giving tree at the front of the hondo was a huge success. Much thanks to everyone who contributed gifts of joy and warmth.

The boxes and bags of toys and family items were dropped off at the Baby It's Cold Outside charity, and all the wonderful warm clothing was carried over to the Calgary Drop In Centre - both were gratefully received.

You are amazing!



Baby It's Cold Outside helps to ensure members of our communities have access to basic needs. From families who are seeking shelter, and other basic needs, families in need of additional support at Christmas, and neighbours who are seeking mental health support.

In 2025, the Calgary Buddhist Temple sangha volunteered 4 times at the Centre to provide lunch service including a fantastic group that went on Nov 29.

The generosity is more than a gift. It's a powerful statement that every person deserves dignity, safety, and a place to call home. The Drop-In Centre is deeply grateful for the temple's trust and unwavering commitment.

CALGARY  
DROP-IN  
CENTRE



## NOVEMBER DONATIONS

### Canada Helps

Dodds A,	Howard, L.
Ghann, J.	McCullagh, B.
Giggs, M.	Miyanishi, K.
Haddon, S.	Post, D.

Robson, T.
Stewart, M.
Sugimoto, S.
Wright, C.

### Temple Donations

Anonymous  
Ambedian, E.  
*In Memory of Chizuko Kimura*  
Bowman, J.  
Cruickshank, D  
Delisle, Y.  
Giroux, E.  
Hironaka D.

Kitagawa, S.  
*In Memory of Mike Kitagawa*  
Liu, O.  
McCormack, D.  
Miquelon, D.  
Odagaki, S.  
Olexiul, B.  
Ono, A.  
Ota, F.

Nishi, M.  
Porteous, A.  
Rahim Ladha Professional  
Corp  
Sekiya, C.  
Seman, M.  
Shoults, E.  
Skingle, N. & K.



## 2026 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](https://canadahelps.org/en/dn/39361)) or via e-transfer ([calgarybuddhisttemple@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:calgarybuddhisttemple@gmail.com).

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Name:

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Name:

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Address: Line 1

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Address: Line 2

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City, Province,

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Postal Code:

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Telephone:

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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