



THE SANGHA STREAM

March 2024

2024 BISHOP'S REPORT BY REV. TATSUYA AOKI

I would like to express my most sincere appreciation to all the Jodo Shinshu Temples of Canada (JSBTC), ministers, national board of directors, and all temples and members for keeping our organization active and accessible. All the ministers and national board of directors across Canada are working tirelessly for the sake of our temples, for all the members, and for the community at large.

When we attend temple services, we have short meditation, chanting, and a Dharma talk. While we are meditating, we are exercising “self-reflection.” Knowing ourselves is a constant and lifelong process, for we are also constantly changing. Most often we feel that we are pretty much the same as we were yesterday. However, in Buddhism, we are taught that this is not so. I’ve often asked people to consider looking at our lives in five-year increments. We are different at 5 than we are at 10, 15 or 20. And if we are fortunate, we will be very different at 60 or 80. It is not just physically that we grow and change, but also our knowledge and experience, and our awareness of what is of value. They will also change and grow. As I reflect on the JSBTC, there are some changes I would like to share. This year’s JSBTC AGM will be held on Saturday, April 27. Only Senseis and national board of directors will meet in Lethbridge, and the rest of delegate will join the meeting on Zoom.

MINISTERS AND JSBTC

Ministerial Well-Being:

Some ministers are serving two or more temples in Canada. Post-Covid concerns continue to add to the workload of all of our ministers; preparing Dharma Talks, attending numerous in-person and zoom meetings, and conducting funerals and memorial services. I have been working with the national board on addressing the matter of the physical and mental health of our ministers before it becomes a very real concern. Please continue to be understanding and mindful to your Senseis.



(1) Rev. Yasuo Izumi in Lethbridge retired as of October 31, 2023. I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to Rev. Izumi for 51 years of his dedicated service in Canada.

(2) Rev. Dr. Roland Ikuta in Lethbridge has become the resident Kaikyoshi minister for Buddhist Temples of Southern Alberta as of November 1, 2023.

(3) Rev. Yoshimichi Ouchi in Toronto has resigned from JSBTC and eastern district as of January 31, 2024. He will return to Japan on February 25, 2024.

(4) Rev. Kensho Hashimoto in Japan will come to Toronto on April 1, 2024 and will become a resident minister for the eastern district. Rev. Hashimoto is graduating from Ryukoku University's Master's program in March 2023.

* Senior Kaikyoshi ministers in Canada will be asked help train Rev. Hashimoto until he is familiarized with ministerial duties in Canada. Your understanding and support are very much appreciated.

(5) Rev. Joanne Yuasa received Kyoshi certification in May 2023. She also successfully completed Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) officers' training in December 2023 and is working as a CAF Buddhist chaplain in CFB Kingston as of January 2024. She is the first Buddhist chaplain in the CAF.

(6) Ministers' Retirement Supplementary fund is currently benefitting Rev. Fujikawa, Rev. Izumi, Rev. Ulrich, Rev. Martin, Rev. Miyakawa and the family of Rev. Michael Hayashi. On behalf of all the ministers, your ongoing support to the fund is greatly appreciated.

HONGWANJI YOUNG BUDDHIST CULTURAL STUDY EXCHANGE (YBICSE) [A.K.A JAPAN YOUTH TOUR]

2024: July 4-9 YBICSE (Canada group will depart on June 23 and return on July 10)

Chaperone: Rev. Naoki Hirano (BC Interior temples)

*Application and proposed travel itinerary will be available in March





MINISTER ARTICLE

Well, here we are in the month of March getting ready to say goodbye to winter and hello to spring. This year the first day of spring is officially observed on March 19th which means that we will once again experience the spring equinox when the daylight and the nighttime are equal. For Shin Buddhists this is a time to reflect on our understanding of the Dharma and the nature of our true self.

In the month of February, we heard Dharma messages about the practice of loving-kindness and the practice of compassion. Loving-kindness is the practice of viewing the possibility that all beings may be happy and free from suffering. The benefit of this practice is that it develops an attitude of kindness towards oneself and others and we experience the fading away of greed, anger, and hatred. Compassion is the practice of viewing the suffering of others with a sense of caring and wanting to do whatever is possible to help relieve that suffering.

The benefit of this practice is that it develops inner peace and happiness for others and oneself. I recently heard of a person who was so down on themselves because of what they said and did. They had the unfortunate experience of expressing their dislike towards another person with words of frustration and a raised voice. In the past this person would shrug off their behavior except this time the other person passed away before the incident was forgotten. This led to a feeling of lamenting the person's passing accompanied with a deep sense of remorse for their actions which weighed heavily on the mind. Impermanence may be easy to understand but it can be difficult to live in accord with this truth when we are preoccupied with the ego-self and the material world.

The person I write about does not follow any religion and it makes me ponder how difficult life can be when we are far removed from our spiritual nature. If they followed the Buddhist Path and listened to the Buddha-Dharma, would they have had the understanding and compassion not to engage with the other person the way they did? In my experience the light of the Dharma illumines our own self-centeredness and guides us to resolve bad karma and develop good karma. Perhaps the most efficient way of individually answering the question would be to imagine ourselves before and after being moved by the light of the Dharma. It saddens me when I hear stories of remorse such as this one, I feel that the person is lost without their spiritual connection and continues to struggle with understanding oneself and the world they live in.

Perhaps this was a story which many of us can relate to. We might even find it hard to show loving-kindness and compassion to the person who raised and directed their voice in frustration to the person who passed away shortly afterwards. Our view determines how we maintain our practice of loving-kindness and compassion. With this story I find it extremely helpful to consider the people involved in the event as Bodhisattvas. Bodhisattvas out of wisdom and compassion appear in different forms to help us understand the reality of life and guide us to the Pure Land. This maintains a view that is less likely to be judgmental and is illumined by the light of the Dharma.



How difficult is it for us to live in accord with impermanence?
Consider the words of Shakyamuni Buddha found in verse #6 from
the Dhammapada:

*“People forget that their lives will end soon.
For those who remember, quarrels come to an end.”*

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

MARCH 2024 MEMORIAL (SHOTSUKI) SERVICE LIST

Diane Tremblay Bernier	Echi Kondo	Hazel Sherban
Simon Dellandrea	Yukiko Rose Marano	Renny Shonin
Dennis Gubenco	Shirley Mitsugi	Connie Takeda
Mac Hardy	Kerry Nagata	Muneo Takeda
Rev. Dr. Leslie Sumio Kawamura	Shinji Earl Odagaki	Ruth West
	Ben Shikaze	Chizuko Helen Yamazaki

TEMPLE SERVICE REMINDERS

MARCH SERVICES

- Sunday, March 3rd - Shotsuki/Monthly Memorial Service at 10:00 am
- Wednesday, March 6th - Meditation Body Scan from 7:00 to 8:00 pm
- Saturday, March 9th – Half Day Meditation Retreat from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm
- Tuesday, March 12th - Meditation and Naikan Reflection from 7:00 to 8:00 pm
- Thursday, March 14th – Book Club “Living Nembutsu” from 7:00 to 8:00 pm
- Tuesday, March 26th - Meditation and Naikan Reflection from 7:00 to 8:00 pm
- Thursday, March 28th – Book Club “Living Nembutsu” from 7:00 to 8:00 pm



OBITUARIES

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

Mr. Naoyuki “Joe” Fukumoto || February 07, 2024 || 101 Years

Mrs. Alice Kimura || February 10, 2024 || 87 Years

About Mr. Fukumoto

Mr. Fukumoto was a centenarian and a life member of the Calgary Buddhist Temple. He provided maintenance for our facilities for many years and continued to provide generous support to our organization.



About Mrs. Kimura

Mrs. Kimura worked with the Calgary School Board for many years, was one of the founding members of the Fujinkai for the Calgary Buddhist Temple and participated in the Kotobuki Club. She was a proud member of her community and spent many hours volunteering with multiple organizations.

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

Namo Amida Butsu



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

SPRING IKEBANA CLASS

*March 16 and 30, April 13 and 27, and May 11
1:30 pm – 4:30 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.

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

JSBTC WOMEN'S FEDERATION DANA DAY

Sunday, March 24, 2024



All donations made at the temple this day or donations made online which are identified “WF Dana Day” will go to the **Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC) Women's Federation (WF)**. The Dana Day donations are consolidated with Temples across Canada and are directed specifically to national organization(s) promoting social welfare.

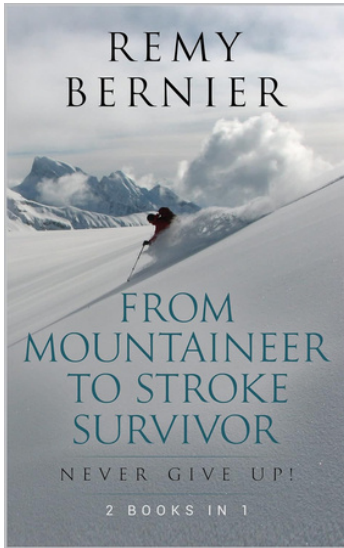
“Dana” refers to giving without thought of receiving something in return. The JSBTC Women's Federation sincerely thank you all for thinking of those less fortunate and for joining together to support others.



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

FROM MOUNTAINEER TO STROKE SURVIVOR

Sunday, March 24, 2023 – after service



Join us for tea after service and meet the resilient author of “From Mountaineer to Stroke Survivor”, Remy Bernier. Remy started a new life in 2006 due to a stroke. Prior to his accident, he was thriving as an aspiring mountain guide. Now, the right hemisphere of Remy’s body is paralyzed, and his coordination, speech and vision have been affected. Remy has been attending the Calgary Buddhist Temple for several years and we are fortunate that he is an active member of our Sangha. He continues to raise the bar in everything he does, and he is an inspiration to the world.

This is an opportunity to learn about and from his experiences. “Is suffering a severe stroke the end of the world, or the beginning of a different kind of life?”



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Sunday, April 14th, 2024

C A L G A R Y
DROP-IN
C E N T R E

We’ll be providing lunch service at the Calgary Drop-In (DI) Centre.

We leave after the Sunday service around 11:15 am and walk over to the DI together or meet there at 11:30 am. Eight volunteers are required, and the minimum age is 16 years old.

Go to <https://bit.ly/community-14Apr24> to register and support the community!

2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, April 14, 2024 shortly after service (11:15 -11:30AM)

Our annual general meeting will be held on April 14, 2024 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. If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a board member, please contact Dan at dan37mcc@gmail.com.



Japanese Canadian Survivors Health & Wellness Fund

**Are you a Japanese Canadian born before
April 1, 1949, with roots in British Columbia?**

GRANTS AVAILABLE:

- **GRANT 1: \$650**
 - For Survivors who did not receive the 2021 Grant that was offered between September 1 to October 31, 2021
- **GRANT 2: \$4,500**
 - A new grant for living Survivors to support their individual health and wellness needs

ELIGIBILITY:

- Must be of Japanese descent
- Born before April 1, 1949
- Lived in BC before April 1, 1949 OR had parents or grandparents who lived in BC before April 1, 1949
- Have been directly impacted by the actions of the BC government before April 1, 1949

GRANTS OPEN UNTIL MARCH 31, 2025

HOW TO APPLY

- Apply Online at www.jcwellness.org
- Work with a Regional Outreach Worker
 - Email: help@jcwellness.org Phone: 250-797-6300
- Attend Regional Events



FOR MORE INFORMATION



www.jcwellness.org

01/19/2024 V.1

We are grateful to be doing this work on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish peoples.



Japanese Canadian Survivors Health & Wellness Fund

INFORMATION AND APPLICATION SUPPORT SESSION

Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 11:30 (after Shotsuki)
Calgary Buddhist Temple

PLEASE RSVP TO susan.huntley@jcwellness.org

Join us to hear more information about the Health & Wellness grants for Japanese Canadian Survivors.

Outreach Workers can assist you with your application and validate your documents. Please be prepared to show photo ID and proof of address.

If you have already applied online, please come to have your ID and proof of address validated.

For more information on the grants available and eligibility requirements, see www.jcwellness.org.

Alberta Regional Outreach Workers:

- **Roger Teshima** roger.teshima@jcwellness.org
587-896-5178
- **Susan Huntley** susan.huntley@jcwellness.org
pending

We are grateful to be doing this work on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish peoples.

02/17/2024



“STAMP” OUT WASTE WITH THE WOMEN’S FEDERATION



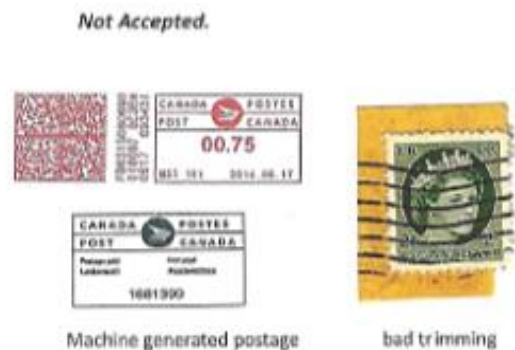
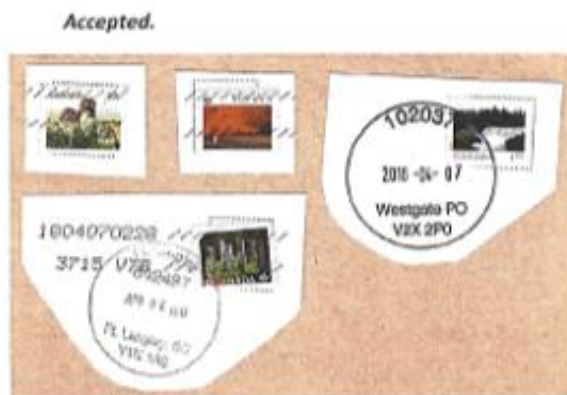
Save the Children-Canada collects used postage stamps for resale to dealers and collectors. Money raised by this method of fundraising is used to help provide a better life and a brighter future for children around the world and in Canada.

The JSBTC Women’s Federation takes ALL stamps, foreign and Canadian. Please remember to put your stamps in the container at the entrance to the Temple by April 28 th as they will be taken to the next WF Annual Meeting in Steveston for national consolidation.



These stamps are sold to stamp collectors by the stamp store so the condition of the stamps is important!

- Please cut with scissors (do not tear!!) and **leave a 1/3 to 1/2 inch border around the stamp.**
- Stamps with postmarks showing the location and date are worth more so please cut around the postmark. Leave multiple stamps together.
- If you have a postcard with the postmark showing the date and location, please turn in the whole postcard – do not cut it.
- If it does not show the town or city, just trim around the stamp with border as above.
- Stamps without enough border trim and machine-generated business postage are not usable.





PAST WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CALGARY DROP-IN CENTRE

Thank you to the great volunteers who stepped-up to serve lunch at the Drop-In Centre on Sunday, Feb 4. Your kindness in supporting the community is greatly appreciated!

WOOL YOU BE MINE?

This introductory wool workshop held in the afternoon on Sunday, Feb 11 was a fun, learning experience for a great group in attendance.

Special thanks to our engaging presenter, Jocy McCormack, for sharing her experience and aptitude with us. She inspired those in attendance.





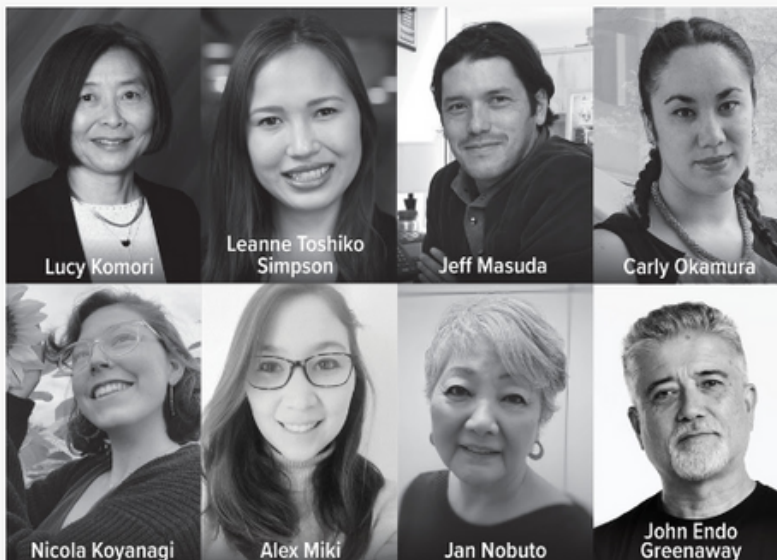
INTERGENERATIONAL WELLNESS RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

The Japanese Canadian Legacies Society is pleased to announce the results of the Intergenerational Wellness stream of the Community Fund. Thank you to the families, groups and organizations from across the country who applied in this important stream. We were moved by the many project applications that spoke to the need for intergenerational healing, collaboration, and dialogue. It is clear that the desire to connect across generations remains strong.

For more information visit [Japanese Canadian Legacies](#)



Intergenerational Wellness Funding Recipients Announced





LIBRARY NEWS

The library will be open Sunday **March 17th** after the service. Come downstairs and browse the books while you enjoy a tea.

We have two copies of the book club book: *Living Nembutsu: Applying Shinran's Radically Engaged Buddhism in Life and Society* by Jeff Wilson.

Chapters in the book include:

- Rooted in the Buddha-Ground
- Radical Shinran
- Queer Shinran
- Refugee Shinran and
- Principles for Engaged Shin Buddhism



Belle and Masaye

JANUARY DONATIONS

Temple Donations

Anonymous
Auld, Belle
Chen, Nicole
Delisle, Yuri
in memory of Tomeo Takahashi
Gubenco, Robert
Gubenco, Robert & Lori
Hayashi, Debbie

Kitagawa, Susan
Liu-Sproule, Olivia
Masuda, Misae
McCormack, Dan
Miquelon, Dixie
Oishi, Jits
Oshiro, Evan
Ota, Fumi

Pacini, Ricardo and Nirlya
Robb, Barrie and Jackie
Sano, Tracee
Seman, Michael
Tajiri, June
Takeda, Laurie
Takeda, Nathan
Tanaka, Masaye

Canada Helps Donations

Dodds, Alexandra
Ghann, Jameela
Giggs, Melanie
Gillis, Emi
Haddon, Samantha

Howard, Leslie
Martin, James
McCullagh, Bob
Miyaniishi, Kiyoko
Robson, Tomiko

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



TEMPLE MEMBERSHIP



CALGARY BUDDHIST TEMPLE
www.calgary-buddhist.ab.ca

2024 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 (\$100 per member)
- ☐ Student (Under 18) Membership –No Charge
- ☐ Honorary Senior (65 & over) Membership
– Complimentary

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

____ by email

____ by mail

____ Please contact me regarding volunteering