



THE SANGHA STREAM

March 2025

MINISTER ARTICLE

The other day I was contemplating our usage of names. We name things as a way of identification which helps with distinguishing and associating objects and events in our lives. Each one of us has a name which we personally identify with, and which also helps us to be distinguishable from others. While deep in thought about names the phrase “A rose by any other name would smell as sweet” from William Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* popped into my mind. The phrase means that no matter what we call a rose, it will still have the same fragrance. This makes logical sense when thinking about a rose but then I thought about my name and subsequently *Namo-Amida-Butsu*, Amida Buddha’s name. How might this phrase translate symbolically? Perhaps for us it means that our name does not define our true nature or our essence. In our Pure Land practice, we recite *Namo-Amida-Butsu* as an outward expression of trust in Amida Buddha’s compassion. Furthermore, Shinran Shonin taught that what’s important isn’t the exact words it’s the sincerity behind them. Just as a rose’s fragrance doesn’t depend on its name, Amida Buddha’s compassion isn’t limited by our use of language or our status.

In life, we often get caught up in labels which can be difficult to move away from. People might judge others based on their name, appearance, status, or even mistakes they’ve made. But just like the rose, who we are is more than a name. Our kindness, actions, and our heart define us, not what others call us or how we have been distinguished in society. This also means that just as Amida Buddha accepts all beings as they are, we are also worthy just as we are. Whether or not we think we are good enough spiritually or otherwise doesn’t change the fact that we are already embraced by infinite compassion. Sometimes, we may doubt ourselves with thoughts that we need to be perfect in life or fit a certain image to be valued. But like the rose, our essence, our kindness, our daily struggles, our aspiration to help others is already meaningful.

Whenever we feel disorientated by the darkness created by labels, judgments, or expectations in life it might help to remember: A rose by any other name is still a rose, and all of us, by any name, are still precious. Our worth doesn’t come from names or opinions but from the person we are inside.

“One is not noble who injures living creatures. They are noble who hurt no one.”

Dhammapada Verse #270



Namo-Amida-Butsu
Robert Gubenco Sensei

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MARCH 2025 MEMORIAL (SHOTSUKI) SERVICE LIST

Diane Tremblay Bernier
Simon Dellandrea
Dennis Gubenco
Mac Hardy
Rev. Dr. Leslie Kawamura
Echi Kondo
San Liu

Yukiko Rose Marano
Shirley Mitsugi
Kerry Nagata
Shinji Earl Odagaki
Masuo Mace Oshiro
Takeo Duke Oshiro
Ted Oshiro

Ben Shikaze
Hazel Sherban
Rennyō Shonin
Connie Takeda
Muneo Takeda
Ruth West
Chizuko Helen Yamazaki

TEMPLE SERVICE REMINDERS

MARCH SERVICES

- Sunday, March 2 nd 10:00 am - Shotsuki/Monthly Memorial Service
- Tuesday, March 4 th from 7:00 to 8:15 pm – Meditation (walking and seated)
- Saturday, March 8 th from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm – Half-Day Meditation Retreat
- Sunday, March 16 th 10:00 am – Spring Equinox and Family Service
- Sunday, March 30 th 10:00 am – WF Dana Day and Eshinni and Kakushinni Memorial Service

OBITUARY

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

Russell Hironaka || February 21, 2025 || 52 Years

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

Namo Amida Butsu



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

BUDDHIST YOUTH TOUR TO JAPAN

June 29th to July 10th 2025

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada
Buddhist Youth Tour to Japan
 2025 Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange (YBICSE)




Dates of Trip: **June 29 – July 10, 2025**

Cost of Trip: **CDN \$1,000 + Airfare** (approx. \$1,860-\$2,650 as of Feb. 16)

Candidate Qualifications

- ✓ Jodo Shinshu Buddhist
- ✓ High School Students (15-18 yrs)
- ✓ In good health

Application Deadline: April 1, 2025

This special educational trip, sponsored by our mother temple Hongwanji, offers young Jodo Shinshu followers from North America, Hawaii, Canada and South America district a unique opportunity to experience Japanese culture while deepening their spiritual connection. We will visit Hongwanji and other historic sites associated with Shinran Shonin, engage in peace programs in Hiroshima, and connect with young Dharma friends from around the world. If there are any questions regarding the tour, please contact this year's tour leader Rev. Tatsuya Aoki (Vancouver). rev.aoki@gmail.com

Online Registration:
(there is no paper registration form)





Tour itinerary is available from your Sensei or temple office.



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 at a cost of \$10.00/person + 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.



JSBTC WOMEN’S FEDERATION DANA DAY

Sunday, March 30, 2023

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.



THE WAR BETWEEN US – FREE MOVIE EVENT

Rescheduling – New Date Pending

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**



IKEBANA INSPIRED MOTHER'S DAY ARRANGEMENT

Saturday, May 10, 2025 || 2:00-4:00pm

Would you like to put something together for someone special? Join the Sangha to create a unique flower arrangement for your mother or someone who deserves your thanks. This is a basic workshop lead by the amazing, Rika Saruwatari, who was trained under Ms. Takako Yokoyama, and is a certified Shihan (teacher).

All materials will be provided but if you have a pair of gardening cutters, please bring them.

Registration fee is \$15/arrangement + processing. Space is limited and the deadline to register is April 30. Register by going to:

<https://bit.ly/ikebana-inspired>



We gratefully acknowledge support from the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society.



“STAMP” OUT WASTE WITH THE WOMEN’S FEDERATION

Deadline: April 20th

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 put any and all stamps in the plastic container in the entrance area by April 20th as they will be taken to the next WF Annual Meeting in Toronto 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.

Accepted.



Not Accepted.



Machine generated postage



bad trimming

Thank you!



PAST WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Sunday, Feb 2, 2025

Brrrrr... these brave souls: Colin, Thomas, Kody, Heather, Doug, Matt, Chris, Christa, Jean, Kiyoko, Jane, and Lisa from the Temple plus two extra volunteers provided a hot lunch on a very chilly day. A high volume of clients who appreciated the Sangha's community outreach.

Thank you for thinking of others.



UDON AND A MATINEE

Sunday, Feb 16, 2025



On another cold day, udon was such a treat! Along with the delicious broth made by Yuko, the thick noodles and a wide variety of condiments, that could be added based on personal preference, was really enjoyed by the Sangha.

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The movie "the Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse" was inspirational while Tora was touching and thought-provoking. We are grateful to be able to enjoy each others company and open our minds to unique perspectives.





LIBRARY NEWS

The library is open on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Next is Sunday March 16th. Come downstairs after the service and browse the books while you enjoy a cup of tea!

If you want to borrow books to peruse at home, 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! These can go into the Returns box too.

Thanks, Kim and Masaye



DECEMBER DONATIONS

Canada Helps

Howard, Leslie
Iftody, Thomas

Miyanishi, Kiyoko
Stewart, Matthew

Sugimoto, Sumire
Wright, Charlene

Temple Donations

Anonymous
Chen, Nicole
Delisle, Yuri
In memory of Tomeo Takahashi
Geneme, Roman
Hilton, O. Jane
Huntley, Susan & Chris
Lawrie, Erin
Lin, Tzu Hsun

Kitagawa, Susan
Klippenstien, Colin
Masuda, Misae
McCormack, Daniel
Miquelon, Dixie
Oshiro, Evan
Ota, Fumi
Pittman, Craig & Cathy

Saruwatari, Rika
Takeda, L
Takeda, N
Tanaka, Masaye
Yasui, Pierce
Yasui, T
Yasui, Terry

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