



THE SANGHA STREAM

May 2026

MINISTER ARTICLE

There was a time when people spoke of rare occurrences that disrupted the ordinary flow of life such as deadly storms, widespread flooding, and pandemics as events that happened perhaps once in a hundred years. Today, however, we are living in a world where such events seem to occur more frequently. With climate change, increased international travel, and a growing global population, what once felt distant now feels familiar. We may feel overwhelmed or troubled by such disruptive occurrences that we have no control over yet through the Buddha-Dharma we are reminded of the impact of impermanence. With the understanding of impermanence, we develop a deeper awareness of the preciousness of each moment and of this life itself.

On the first Sunday service in April, we reflected on a teaching from our Buddhist calendar which said: “A once in a lifetime encounter.” This teaching reminds us that each moment we experience, each person we meet, each gathering we share, is unique and will never happen again in exactly the same way. Everything is changing, our world, our relationships, even our thoughts and feelings. When we truly take this to heart, we begin to see that life is not something to take for granted. Instead, we try to receive each moment with gratitude.

When I first read “A once in a lifetime encounter” from the Buddhist calendar I was reminded of Shakyamuni Buddha’s story of “The Blind Tortoise and the Floating Log. The Buddha asks us to imagine a vast ocean. And floating on its surface is a single wooden log with a small hole in its center. The winds and waves carry this log endlessly across the water. Deep beneath the ocean lives a blind tortoise. Only once every 100 years does the tortoise rise to the surface. What are the chances, the Buddha asks, that this tortoise, surfacing so rarely, would place its head exactly through the hole in that drifting log? The answer is that such a thing would be almost impossible. And yet, the Buddha taught, it is even more rare to be born as a human being and to encounter the Dharma.

I imagine that the Buddha told this story to help us reflect differently on our lives. Despite the uncertainty and challenges that we experience, we are also guided to see the preciousness of human life. From a Buddhist perspective our life presents the opportunity for us to be able to listen and reflect on the Buddha-Dharma, and to gather as a Sangha. This itself is something rare and wondrous.



Shinran Shonin teaches that this realization does not lead us to pride but rather to humility and gratitude. Our lives are not the result of our own efforts alone, but of countless causes and conditions that have come together in ways we cannot fully comprehend.

Even in a world where storms may come more often and uncertainty feels closer, this teaching invites us to pause and recognize that this moment, just as it is, is a once in a lifetime encounter. The person sitting beside you, the sound of the Dharma, the gathering together for a Sunday service are events which will never be repeated in exactly the same way again.

To live with this Buddhist teaching is to understand our limitations and to meet life more fully. When we recognize each moment as a once in a lifetime encounter, we are prone to listen more carefully, speak more thoughtfully, and appreciate more deeply. Gratitude arises, not because everything is pleasant, but because everything is fleeting and therefore precious. In this way the Light of the Dharma guides us back to what matters most, receiving this life with a thankful heart.

Like the blind tortoise finding the floating log, this moment has come to us through causes and conditions beyond comprehension. May we learn receive it with gratitude.

Namo Amida Butsu
Robert Gubenco Sensei



Calgary Buddhist Temple

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MAY 2026 MEMORIAL (SHOTSUKI) SERVICE LIST

Randy Adrian	Bruce Fazio	James Oshiro
Emily Burgess	Helen Gubenco	Elli Anne Primeau
Frank Burgess	Kazuo Hinatsu	Donald Schatkoski
Jean Cruickshank	Joe Komaric	Gordon Sherban
Robert Cruickshank	Toni Lewis	Gene Tanaka
Archie Desjardins	Svend Mortensen	Nobuo Teshima
Earl Desjardins	Beverley Needham	Yuriko Lily Yoneda

TEMPLE SERVICE REMINDERS

Sunday, May 3rd

- 30 Minute Seated Meditation at 9:00 am
- Shotsuki/Monthly Memorial Service at 10:00 am

Sunday, May 24th

- 30 Minute Seated Meditation at 9:00 am
- Service at 10:00 am

Sunday, May 10th

- 30 Minute Seated Meditation at 9:00 am
- Service at 10:00 am

Sunday, May 31st

- 30 Minute Seated Meditation at 9:00 am
- Service at 10:00 am

Sunday, May 17th

- 30 Minute Seated Meditation at 9:00 am
- Family and Gōtan-e (Shinran Birth) service at 10:00 am and Keirokai (Senior) appreciation day

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.



CO-PRESIDENTS OF THE CBT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Sangha Members of the Calgary Buddhist Temple,

As the new Co-Presidents of the Board of Directors, Laurie and I would like to welcome all new members of the Sangha and offer our sincerest thanks to all of you who continue to support the temple and its many activities.

A huge thank you to Sensei Robert, who continues to lead our weekly services and offers us such valuable teaching and guidance in the light of the Dharma. We also want to extend our deep gratitude to everyone who volunteers their time and efforts on the fundraising and Sangha engagement committees. We cannot thank you enough for the hard work you do to make our temple's activities possible.

We would like to reaffirm to everyone our commitment as newly elected leaders of the Board. We are dedicated to upholding the traditions, values, and mission of the temple, while supporting Sensei Robert and the entire Sangha.

We look forward to seeing you all at our Sunday services and at our various temple events throughout the coming year!

In Gassho,

Evan Oshiro & Laurie Takeda
Co-Presidents, CBT Board of Directors



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CALGARY DROP-IN CENTRE

Let's continue to think of others by providing lunch service on **Sunday, May 3** at the Calgary Drop-In Centre downtown. Volunteers must be 18+ to participate. We leave 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 - <https://bit.ly/Drop-In-03May26>

IKEBANA-INSPIRED MOTHER'S DAY ARRANGEMENT

Saturday, May 9, 2026

Would you like to create a unique flower arrangement for someone special? Sangha Engagement is hoping to host an ikebana-inspired flower arrangement for your mother or for someone who deserves your thanks. This will be a basic workshop lead by the amazing, Rika Saruwatari is a certified Shihan (teacher) who was trained under Ms. Takako Yokoyama.



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

Dharma Time/children's session from 10 am-12:00 pm at a cost of \$20/child (must be accompanied by an adult). To register: <https://bit.ly/WindChime-09May26-am>

Adult/14+ session from 2:00pm - 4:00pm. This workshop is open to the public at a cost of \$30.00/person. To register: <https://bit.ly/WindChime-09May26-pm>

The deadline to register is April 30 due to the placement of the flower order.





THANK YOU VERY MOCHI

Sunday, May 24, 2026



We are so grateful to be able to hold services again in-person at the Temple. Your trust, understanding, patience, and continued support, during the repairs to the temple, has been appreciated.

To celebrate, the Temple’s Sangha (community) Engagement committee would like to provide a small token of appreciation to those who attend Sunday service on May 24. Everyone in attendance can take home a piece of mochi – our way of saying “Thank you very mochi!”.

Mochi is a Japanese rice cake which carries a deep cultural significance, symbolizing prosperity, long life, and the continuity of life itself. It is stuffed with a sweet filling, most commonly anko, a sweetened red bean paste made from azuki beans.

SASHIKO KITS

Sunday, May 24, 2026 - After Service

Last December, we unfortunately had to cancel the “Let’s Sashiko Together” workshop so after service on Sunday, May 24, the “do-it-yourself” or DIY sashiko kits will be available for sale for \$10-\$25 each. A limited number of different patterns and materials will be available to choose from.



Sashiko (刺し子), meaning "little stabs," is a traditional Japanese decorative and functional embroidery technique that uses simple, repeating running stitches to mend, reinforce, and embellish fabric. Historically, it was practiced by rural communities to repair and strengthen clothing and textiles. Today, sashiko is celebrated as both a practical repair method and a distinct form of decorative art, known for its geometric patterns and meditative process.

Stay after service and see what sashiko kits are available for purchase for yourself or as a unique gift. For those who registered and paid back in December, you will have first pick from the kits.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



On Sunday, June 7 from 1:00pm-4:00pm, volunteer with the Sangha at the Calgary (Drop-In) Donation Centre. This family-friendly (aged 12 or older), volunteer opportunity supports various day-to-day activities at the Donation Centre located at 3640 11a Street NE. Volunteer activities include, but are not limited to, the storage, distribution, management, and inventory of all donated items. If you want to give back behind the scenes, this is the perfect job for you!

Please sign up and meet us at the Donation Centre (3640 11a Street NE Calgary) on June 7! Sign up at <https://bit.ly/DonationCentre-07Jun26>

MAKE A JAPANESE WIND CHIME

Sunday, June 14 starting at 11:30am

Everyone is invited to take part in this fun activity that is popular in Japan - make a wind chime! Join the Sangha and use special POSCA pens to create or design your own personalized glass wind chime.

A Japanese wind chime, known as a furin (風鈴, literally “wind bell”) in Japanese, is a small bell usually found hanging from the balconies and porches of Japanese houses in summer. Originally used in Buddhist temples, where many of these bells can still be found today. Over 1200 years ago, nobility began to hang them on their own porches as a protective charm to ward away evil spirits. Over time, the bells became smaller and more common in Japanese houses.



In the days before air-conditioning, Japanese people used to listen to the sound of furin to promote a feeling of coolness to help get through Japan’s sweltering and humid summers. The components for the wind chime, including the glass bell – cost is \$15 per wind chime.

This is a great activity and open to all. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/windchime-14Jun26>.



SUMMER IKEBANA CLASS

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 total cost including flower material and instruction is \$250 for Temple members and \$300 for non-members. No refunds for missed classes.

Students must have their own containers, hand pruners and kenzan (frog).

You can purchase these items from Rika or she can help you select suitable ones on your own if you contact her. These items are not included in the lesson cost.

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

- June 27
- July 11, 25
- August 8, 22

Rika's contact info koufuikebana@gmail.com



CBT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE



Save the date for the golf tournament at D'Arcy Ranch Golf Course, Saturday, August 29. Further event details will follow in the coming months.

Thank you, everyone, for your patience while we navigate the water leakage remedial construction restrictions to in-person activities in the temple downstairs.

The fundraising committee is planning future activities; please keep posted for upcoming events.



WOMEN'S FEDERATION CONVENTION



Next September 11-12 2027, the Women's Convention will be taking place in Hawaii. The convention happens every 4 years with the last one being held in Japan. Unlike the registration for Japan, you will need to make your own arrangements as we are not using a travel agency.

First book your accommodations at the Hilton Hawaii Village, you will get a confirmation number which you will use to register for the convention. Please note, the convention prices are in US dollars.

[VIEW THE VIDEO HERE](#)

Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort

September 11 – 12, 2027 Honolulu, Hawaii

www.hawaiibwa.org

Click **WBWC 2027 Main Page** for the following:

Convention Theme & Music
Logo and Posters

REGISTRATION

Advanced Hotel Reservation Link:

<https://www.eventleaf.com/e/WBWC2027staff>

CVENT Convention Registration: <https://cvent.me/ZzanPm>

June 30, 2026 Early registration deadline (\$325)

March 31, 2027 Regular registration deadline (\$350)

July 1, 2027 Late Registration deadline (\$375)

Schedule/Convention Program

Speakers

Workshops

Entertainment

Convention email address: wbwchawaii@honpahi.org



PAST WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

JSBTC WOMEN'S FEDERATION DANA DAY

Update on the "WF Dana Day" held on Sunday, March 29. The total donations raised by the Calgary Buddhist Temple's generous community was \$1,350! You are amazing! These funds have been consolidated with our member Temples across Canada to support the WF mandate to support social well-being. After the WF Annual Committee Meeting held on April 24 and looking at several excellent charities submitted for review, the organizations supported this year is the CareMakers Foundation and Support Our Troops. Each will receive \$2,000 for their efforts to promote social well-being.



JSBTC WOMEN'S FEDERATION ANNUAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Highlights of the recent WF meeting held online on Friday, April 24, 2026:

- WF Dana Day donations: \$2,000 to CareMakers Foundation; \$2,000 Support our Troops
- WF Sustaining Fund: last year, supported Hirano Sensei of Interior BC and Sugiura Sensei of Toronto to travel to LA to participate in a gagaku (traditional Japanese instruments) workshop
- Stamps collected raised ~\$200 for Save the Children
- WF T-shirts Fundraiser - approx. 270 shirts ordered so far
- World Buddhist Women's Convention in Hawaii in 2027: approx. 20 people going from Canada; Canadians to perform a line dance for their entertainment contribution: "We Are Canadian, Yes We Are"



MARCH DONATIONS

Canada Helps

Dodds A,
Ghann, J.
Griggs, M.
Haddon, S.

Howard, L.
Miyanishi, K.
Post, D.
Robson, T.
Stewart, M.

Sugimoto, L.
Sugimoto, S.
Wright, C.
Zheng, Y.

Temple Donations

Auld, B.
Delisle, Y.
Dolph, H.
Gubenco, R. & L.
Huntley, S. & C.
in memory of Ronnie Takeda

Kanegawa, E.
Kitagawa, S.
Masuda, M.
McCormack, D.
Miyanishi, K.
Odagaki, S.

Oishi, J.
Ota, F.
Sakamoto, T.
Takeda, L.
Tanaka, M.
Wrolson, B.



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) 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