



THE SANGHA STREAM

November 2024

MINISTER ARTICLE

As we commence with the month of November many people will adorn their jackets with a red poppy as a symbol of remembrance. Remembrance for the struggles and the lives which were lost in the First World War and in subsequent wars. The symbolism is that of peace something we hope all living beings will someday experience. The poppy is worn from the last Friday in October until Remembrance Day. “Lest we forget”.

Of the many Remembrance Day services that take place annually on November 11th some of the common gathering places are cemeteries where fallen soldiers are buried. Walking among the rows of tombstones and reading the names of those who died for country and freedom is a reminder of the sacrifice that was made and the impermanence of life.

Whether we visit a cemetery for Remembrance Day, during the time of Obon, or just to sit quietly at a family plot reflecting on the essence of a loved one, I find that the preciousness of life is revealed in the moment. It is the Buddha-Dharma, the light of understanding and love, that awakens in me to try and understand the true nature of life. The first time that I heard the words from Rennyo Shonin’s letter “White Ashes” I was moved by the way this teacher was able to relay how the Buddha-Dharma awakens meaning in both life and death.

The following words are from the last paragraph of Rennyo Shonin’s letter “White Ashes” translated by the late Rev. Taitetsu Unno.

The fragile nature of human existence underlies both the young and the old, and therefore, we must – one and all – turn to the Teaching of the Buddha and awaken to the ultimate source of life. By so understanding the meaning of death, we shall come to fully appreciate the meaning of this life which is unrepeatable and thus to be treasured above all else. By virtue of True Compassion, let us realize the unexcelled value of our human existence; and let us live with the nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu, in our hearts.



MINISTER ARTICLE

Namo-Amida-Butsu
Robert Gubenco Sensei



Calgary Buddhist Temple

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NOVEMBER 2024 MEMORIAL (SHOTSUKI) SERVICE LIST

Darren Butt
Robert Coulson
Atsuko Hagihara

Bryan Kerry
Mike Kitagawa

Alan Mitsugi
Jim Nogamine
Betty Sawada

TEMPLE SERVICE REMINDERS

NOVEMBER SERVICES

- Saturday, November 2nd – Half-Day Meditation Retreat 9:00 am to 1:30 pm
- Sunday, November 3rd - Shotsuki/Monthly Memorial at 10:00 am
- Wednesday, November 6th – Meditation Body Scan 7:00 to 8:00 pm
- Tuesday, November 12th - Meditation and Naikan Reflection from 7:00 to 8:00 pm
- Sunday, November 17th – Family service at 10:00 am
- Tuesday, November 26th - Meditation and Naikan Reflection from 7:00 to 8:00 pm



JAPANESE CANADIAN SURVIVORS HEALTH & WELLNESS FUND - UPDATE

The Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness team is hard at work processing applications.

While there are grant cheques being mailed on a regular basis, we know many Survivors are waiting and frustrated at the length of time to receive a cheque. Due to the volume of applications received to date the wait time has increased. We thank you for your ongoing patience. There is a detailed process to confirm eligibility and due diligence to ensure that the money is being awarded to appropriately qualified Survivors.

Since February 1, 2024, we have received approximately 5000 applications from Japanese Canadian Survivors living around the world. To date, we have awarded over 3500 grants to over 2000 Survivors.

We follow a strategy to process applications by prioritizing age and health and the wellness needs of living Survivors. High priority status is due to physical and / or mental health, or financial need. We started with those aged 100+ years and dropped each group by 5 years (100+ then 95+, 90+ and 85+). We are now serving those born pre-1942 (82+ years) and continue to include priority applications.

Please note:

- You can make an online application until March 31, 2025
- Confirmation of your application is sent by email. A reference number (SR-XXXXXX) is issued. Please keep this number.
- If you have a SR number, please **do not** re-apply. Duplicate applications require more time to process

Eligibility

Eligible applicants for both Grants 1 and 2 must meet ALL of the following requirements:

- be of Japanese descent
- be born **before April 1, 1949**
- **have 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

In addition, for Grant 2:

- On or after February 1st, 2024, the Survivor must be alive at the time of submitting the application (online or through an Outreach Worker)

To validate your application please locate the following documents:

- Personal identification (e.g. birth certificate, passport, a picture ID)
- Birthdate before April 1, 1949
- Proof of current mailing address (e.g. Driver's License, recent credit card statement, utility bill)

DO NOT send the Society any personal documents by email or mail. This is for your protection.



JAPANESE CANADIAN SURVIVORS HEALTH & WELLNESS FUND - UPDATE

Validation

Once the file is assigned to an Outreach Worker, they will contact you by phone or email and arrange to either meet with you in person or virtually (by Zoom).

1. The first step is confirmation of date of birth prior to April 1, 1949.
2. The next step is validation of Roots in British Columbia (B.C.), which confirms the Survivor's ties to BC prior to April 1, 1949.

Research is conducted by staff. However, the onus is on the Survivor/Representative to provide sufficient information to confirm that the Survivor has Roots in BC.

Many have already met with an Outreach Worker for step 1. There is a delay to process step 2, research confirmation of Roots in BC from official documents or recognized databases/sources. Please understand that it is more difficult to find the Roots in B.C. for those born post uprooting (after 1942) and born outside of B.C. Linkage is required of the Survivor to the parent or grandparent with the permanent residence in B.C. prior to April 1, 1949.

As all ship arrivals from Japan to Canada at that time went through the Port of Vancouver, this is not sufficient to qualify as having Roots in B.C. especially if the family's destination was outside of B.C.

Survivors may not be aware of the onerous validation process. This is a requirement to ensure that fraud is not committed in the issuance of these grants. It is a criminal offence to make a false application.

Failure to meet the eligibility requirements will result in a denied application. A denial letter will be sent to the Survivor/Representative. An adjudication process is available if a Survivor requests to have the decision reviewed by the objective Adjudication Committee.

As living Survivor applications are a priority, please note that the following circumstances will encounter a delay to be processed:

- The applicant died after applying
- The applicant is deceased, and the estate is applying for Grant 1 only
- Lost or stolen cheques, incorrect address and deposit errors to an incorrect bank account
- The applicant is living outside of North America

For enquiries, please contact our JCShWF General Phone/Toll-free phone or email:

JCShWF General phone 250.797.6300

JCShWF North American toll-free phone 1.833.368.6462

JCShWF Email: help@jcwelness.org

The list of Outreach Workers is available on our website: <https://jcwelness.org/outreachworkers>

We thank all Survivors for their patience and understanding as we proceed through the validation process for 5000 applications.

The Japanese Canadian Survivor Health & Wellness Fund is open for applications until March 31, 2025.



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Sunday, Nov 10

CALGARY DROP-IN CENTRE

A great way to support our community, and the final date for 2024! We'll be providing lunch service so please join us. Ten volunteers (16 years of age or older) are needed. We leave after service, around 11:15am, to walk over to the Drop-In Centre together, or meet us there at 11:30am. It's not time-consuming and it really means a lot to those less fortunate.

Sign Up for Nov 10: <https://bit.ly/community-10Nov24>



GET YOUR RICE ON

Sunday, Nov 17, 2024 after service

Plan to attend this free rice workshop to be held at the Temple on Sunday, Nov 17 starting around 11:15am/after service. Come learn about the importance of this staple and the differences between some of the different varieties. Then we'll show you different ways rice can be used and do some sampling!

Please Sign Up so we know how many people to expect:
<https://bit.ly/17nov24-riceon>

GIVE MINDFULLY

November 17th to December 15th

From Sunday, Nov 17 until Sunday, Dec 15, a holiday tree will be set up at the front of the hondo for centralizing the charity collection of:

- New, unwrapped gift donations for children ages 0-17; and
- New or gently used winter weather clothing items such as socks, gloves, coats, etc for all age groups.

Should anyone wish to make a monetary donation or donate with a gift certificate, please talk to Susan Huntley or Laurie Takeda or email calgarytemplesangha@gmail.com to coordinate.





UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS



MOCHI COME MY WAY

Sunday, Jan 19, 2025 after service

Getting together to make some mochi has become an annual event at the Temple. It is a popular treat throughout the year, but it is most commonly associated with New Year celebrations. Mochi is considered a symbol of good luck and prosperity, and it is believed to bring longevity and overall wellness for the New Year. We wish to embrace those symbols and hope you and your loved ones have a happy, healthy, and wonderful 2025!

Everyone is invited to join the sangha and the Dharma Time class as we use the modern method (mochi machines) to make the mochi and shape it with our own hands. Or, feel free to come and sample this special, traditional treat.

UDON AND A MATINEE

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

Noodles are a staple of Japanese cuisine, and udon is a thick noodle made from wheat flour. 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.

After we've eaten, we'll watch a family movie together 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!



JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY

March 2025

Coming up in March, the Calgary Buddhist Temple Sangha Engagement will be hosting a Japanese Calligraphy workshop with a fully qualified Master Calligraphy Instructor. Stay-tuned for more details to be announced!



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

2024 Ikebana Style Holiday Centerpiece Class

Date: Saturday, December 21 from 1:30-4:30 pm

If you are interested in this class, please let Rika know by Monday November 25th. This class is limited to 10 participants.

Location: The Calgary Buddhist Temple

The price is \$80 including flower material and instruction.

Students must supply their own containers and scissors. These items can be purchased at the lesson. Contact Rika for prices or if you need assistance selecting these items yourself.

About the teacher:

Rika Saruwatari is trained under Ms. Takako Yokoyama. Rika became a certified shihan (teacher) in 2012.

Contact:

koufuikebana@gmail.com
403.701.0390





PAST WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS



FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE CORNER

Hello Sangha members, we had another successful Chow Mein & Ribs dinner!

The dinner and the supporting events were successful with everyone having fun, and the food was delicious (we were told). Let's give ourselves a pat on our backs for a job well done. Thank you for kneading the dough & making mein, shopping, baking, chopping veggies, cooking,

plating, greeting, setting up & cleaning up, designing the poster & tickets, promoting & purchasing tickets, and eating!

On behalf of the fundraising committee, I want to give a heartfelt thanks to all of you for participating in our fundraising efforts this year. Our committee is a small group so each of your contribution makes an impact on the success of our events.

Have a great holiday season and see you in 2025!

Mickey Ikuta
Fundraising Committee

JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY DEMONSTRATION

Such a joyful, special demonstration of the Japanese Tea Ceremony with ikebana display proudly hosted by the Calgary Buddhist Temple Sangha Engagement.

The tea ceremony involves the ceremonial preparation, presentation, and drinking of matcha [抹茶] or powdered green tea. We learned about the history and intricacies of this age-old cultural activity while in the presence of the beauty and serenity of ikebana which is the Japanese flower arrangements.

Sincere gratitude to the amazing Rika Saruwatari & her wonderful helpers: Yukiko Bansal, Hatsune Dale, Dale Rossetti, and Noah Richardson; and our honored attendee, Takako Yokoyama Sensei.





PAST WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY DEMONSTRATION





PAST WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS



BAKE SALE

The bake was a smashing success—thank you everyone for supporting this fundraising event. Talented bakers and cooks contributed beautifully presented delicious goodies. Many varieties of cakes, cookies, cupcakes, loaves, mochi cakes, muffins, pies, snack treats, squares, tarts, mushi manju comprised the numerous donations. As usual, the mein noodles were a very popular choice. Thank you to all those who contributed to the bake sale and to all those

who supported and purchased items. Baking and food preparation skills expertise and artistic presentation along with your hard work and donation are greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU MERCI DOMO ARIGATO





LIBRARY NEWS

The library is open on the 3rd Sunday of each month, so that will be Sunday November 17th. Come downstairs and browse the books while you enjoy a cup of tea!

For any newcomers to the church, 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.

We have a new book return box! Now you can return a book even if the library is closed. Just leave it in our Returns box.



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.

I am always happy to hear about any book recommendations you may have.

Book recommendation for November (courtesy of Charlene):

- Shinran: His Life and Thought by Norihiko Kikumura

If you would like to look at the list of books available, there is a hard copy available to browse in the library.

Thanks, Kim and Masaye



SEPTEMBER DONATIONS

Canada Helps

Giggs, Melanie
Gillis, Emi
Haddon, Samantha
Howard, Leslie

McCullagh, Bob
Miyanishi, Kiyoko
Post, David
Robson, Tomiko
Stewart, Matthew

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

Temple Donations

Anonymous
Delisle, Yuri
Fitch, Christopher
Goudie, Jane
*In memory of Toshiko and Jerry
Takeda*
Halton, Esther
Kanegawa, Suyeko
In memory of Richard Kanegawa

Kitagawa, Susan
Ly, Lisa
McCormack, Daniel
Miyanishi, Kiyoko
In memory of Sutazo Miyanishi
Oishi, Rose & family
In memory of Gil
Oishi, Sut

Oshiro, Evan
Ota, Fumi
Pittman, Craig & Cathy
Sugimoto, Laura
In memory of Kanoa Sugimoto
Takeda, L
Takeda, N
Tsukishima, Lloyd