



THE SANGHA STREAM

October 2025

MINISTER ARTICLE

Last week while holding my cat in my arms I began to wonder why she feels so safe and comforted in my presence. I have had many pets in my life, but this cat is special when it comes to our relationship. She entered our family two and a half years ago and for some reason chose me to have a special bond with. While holding my cat in my arms I began to think about the Buddha-Dharma and what I can learn from this special bond with my cat.

One of the most noticeable qualities of a cat's affection is its lack of judgment. My cat is not concerned with my accomplishments or mistakes. She simply responds to my kindness and presence. Her love is a reminder of Metta, or loving-kindness, love that is freely given without conditions. How have I not noticed this before and why do I struggle with extending such unconditional love to others?

While my cat softly purrs in my arms and I reflect on our relationship, I realize that this will not last forever. Buddhism teaches us to see impermanence not as something to fear, but as an opportunity to cherish what arises. Knowing that this special bond is temporary allows me to value what we share more deeply and to treasure the fleeting nature of all my connections.

Could this relationship be an opportunity to understand compassion from a different perspective? My cat depends on me for shelter and nourishment which when I consider more deeply is a call to respond with responsibility and kindness. This is the Bodhisattva path made real in my daily life by responding with compassion.

I wonder if the trust in my cat's eyes might be mirroring the patience, warmth, and kindness that I try to practice. The Buddha taught that our relationships often reveal what is already present in our own hearts. The Buddha-Dharma reminds me that love and kindness regardless of where it comes from is a deep teaching and is a reminder of the Buddha-nature reflected in our lives.



I am grateful for this moment of reflection inspired by my cat's affection. There is no way to express my thanks to my cat with words, alas I will continue to comfort her with kindness until it is time for us to part ways.

Knowing that our present actions are part of the karma that will carry forward into the future, may the love and kindness we recognize in our present relationships inspire us to develop and maintain love and kindness in all our future connections.

Namo-Amida-Butsu
Robert Gubenco Sensei



Calgary Buddhist Temple

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Calgary, Alberta

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www.calgary-buddhist.ab.ca

OCTOBER 2025 MEMORIAL (SHOTSUKI) SERVICE LIST

Gerrit Dooge
Keiko Hinatsu
Rev. Yasuo Izumi
Richard Kanegawa
Mamoru Kimura
Chito "Mary" Kimura

Lloyd MacDonald
Masanori Nishikawa
Hanako Oshiro
Haruo Oshiro
Jack Pittman

Sean Reilly
Nobuko Sagara
Mark Sano
Florence Shikaze
Jerry Takeda
Toshiko Takeda

TEMPLE SERVICE REMINDERS

OCTOBER SERVICES

- Sunday, October 5th, 10:00 am – Shotsuki/Monthly Memorial Service
- Tuesday, October 7th, 7:00 to 8:00 pm – Meditation (walking and seated)
- Sunday, October 12th, 10:00 am – Service
- Sunday, October 19th, 10:00 am – Family Service
- Sunday, October 26th, 10:00 am – Service



BISHOP'S MESSAGE 2025 JODO SHINSHU BUDDHIST TEMPLES OF CANADA DAY

Dear Dharma Friends,

Let us pause to reflect on the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II in 2025. It was a time when millions of lives were lost, and countless hearts were broken. The impact of war still lingers in many parts of the world, and the pain of that period is a profound reminder of the darkness of human suffering.

As followers of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, we turn to the Buddha's teachings to help us understand the impermanence of all things and the healing potential. Amida Buddha's vow to save all beings is a light that guides us from darkness to peace, from suffering to wisdom.

This year also marks the 120th anniversary of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in Canada. We reflect with deep gratitude and joy on the journey that has brought us to this remarkable milestone. As we enter this new season together, I extend my warmest greetings to each of you across our Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada sangha. Whether you come to the temple in person or connect with your Sangha from afar, please know that your presence in the Dharma community is deeply appreciated.

The teachings of Jodo Shinshu continue to guide us through the joys and challenges of our daily lives. In a world that often feels uncertain and divided, we are gently reminded of the boundless compassion of Amida Buddha, who embraces all sentient beings without condition or discrimination.

This embrace is expressed through the Nembutsu—Namo Amida Butsu—a simple, profound expression of gratitude and entrusting in the working of the Buddha's Vow. In reciting the Nembutsu, we are not striving for perfection or enlightenment through our own efforts, but rather, we awaken to the compassion already surrounding us. It is in this profound realization that we find peace, humility, and the courage to live more meaningfully.

As we reflect on the teachings, let us remember the importance of interdependence—the truth that all life is connected. In this spirit, we renew our commitment to supporting one another, listening deeply, and walking the path of the Dharma together.

I express heartfelt gratitude to our ministers, temple leaders, volunteers, and members for your ongoing dedication and tireless efforts in sharing the Dharma across Canada. May the light of Amida Buddha continue to shine upon us all, guiding our hearts toward peace, and our actions toward the betterment of the world.

With palms together in gassho,

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



I would like to support the Jodo Shinshu
Buddhist Temples of Canada.

Name: Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone # (optional) _____

Email _____

*Please specify if you wish your donation to
go towards one or more specific programs.*

\$ _____ General Use Donation

\$ _____ Minister's Retirement Fund

\$ _____ Living Dharma Centre

\$ _____ Women's Federation

***Please make your cheque payable to your
local temple. Your temple will forward
your donation on your behalf and issue a
tax receipt for your donation.***

Thank you for your support.

September 2024



JodoShinshu Behind the Scenes and Beyond our Temple Walls

*It has no building in which to hold regular
services.*

It holds no bazaars or sales to raise money.

*Yet it helps spread the Dharma and sustain
Jodo Shinshu Buddhism across Canada.*

Please lend your support in October.

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples

Of Canada

www.jsbtc.ca



Invisible to many of the individuals in our temples is an organization that keeps Jodo Shinshu alive and together across Canada. That non-profit religious organization is the **Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC)** which carries on the following activities:

- Maintains a library located at the Toronto Buddhist Temple of Buddhist References and books.
- Supports Buddhist Education of members across Canada.
- Extends reach of Shin teachings and practice beyond physical temple location through regular virtual services.

- provided through a group health program administered by the JSBTC. Temples can also have their admin staff opt-in for group health.
- Canada participates in a Hongwanji Overseas Ministers' Benefit Program which allows our ministers to contribute, as well as benefit from a Group RRSP.

Through the **Office of the Bishop**

- Canada is recognized as an International District of Nishi Hongwanji and is included in the international considerations of the home temple in Kyoto, Japan;
- new ministers are sought out to fill the needs of the Canadian temples. When needed, the Bishop coordinates the schedule of existing ministers to help those temples who do not have a resident minister;
- Coordination and support of ministerial services where there is no resident minister.

The Living Dharma Centre supports temple projects that can benefit people across Canada. These projects have included supporting the recording of guest ministers at temple services so that those dharma talks can be shared with others;

The Womens Federation

- acts as a communication bridge between the women of the Canadian temples,
- provides education funding for ministers and ministerial aspirants,
- encourages temples to fundraise for Dana Day and the accumulated funds are donated to Canadian Charities
- through the collection of used postage stamps the Women's Federation is able to provide resources to people in underdeveloped countries.

The Ministerial Retirement Fund

provides a supplemental income to retired ministers and their families. In 2023 this fund supported 6 families.

In addition the JSBTC provides support in ways that cannot be done through individual temples:

- Extended health benefits for the ministers and their families are

These are just a few of the many ways this "behind the scenes" organization helps Sanghas across Canada. The JSBTC does not have a building in which it holds services and can collect donations by attendees nor does the JSBTC hold fundraising bazaars or dinners to fund its programs.

The JSBTC counts on us to support its programs and activities. We provide funds through our membership fees and by asking you to support the JSBTC each October when we recognize JSBTC Day. At our service in October, please consider making a separate donation to support our National Organization.

For more information please check out our website at www.jsbtc.ca or the Living Dharma Centre at www.livingdharmacentre.ca

In gassho,



JODO SHINSHU BUDDHIST TEMPLES OF CANADA

11786 Fentiman Place, Richmond, BC, V7E 6M6 Canada
Tel: 604-272-3330 • Fax: 604-272-6865
www.livingdharmacentre.ca

September, 2025

Dear Sangha members,

In 1905 Nishi Hongwanji sent a minister to Canada to support the Japanese Buddhist community in Vancouver. In October of that year, Rev. Senju Sasaki arrived and delivered his first Dharma talk. Now in 2025, our annual October JSBTC Day celebrates the 120th anniversary of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in Canada.

Those 120 years have been years of tremendous change and upheaval: starting with one temple in Vancouver, growing to seven in BC and one in Alberta in the 1930s, going through the dislocation and horror of the war years, to Japanese Canadians moving across the country and founding temples in other towns in Alberta, in Winnipeg, and in Ontario and Montreal. During those years, Jodo Shinshu ministers and lay leaders kept the message of the Dharma strong and kept the lights on for the Sangha, wherever it might be meeting.

Now we celebrate JSBTC Day to remember, with gratitude, those ministers, lay leaders, and sangha members who worked tirelessly through those years, both good and bad. We also celebrate this day to recognize the continuing work that the JSBTC does now to spread the Dharma.

Donations made on JSBTC Day enable these ongoing efforts. Today the JSBTC supports and funds the work of the Bishop, provides health benefits and educational training to our ministers, sustains the Ministers' Retirement Fund, maintains the Living Dharma Centre, and provides assistance to the Women's Federation. Your support of the JSBTC is both needed and greatly appreciated in this important work.

Donations can be made directly by cheque to Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada or through **Canada Helps** at

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/LivingDharmaCentre/>.

This link enables you to designate a general donation to JSBTC, or support the Ministers' Retirement Fund, the Living Dharma Centre, or the Women's Federation.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the JSBTC, as the JSBTC continues to support our ministers and local temples.

In gassho,

Laura Sugimoto
President



FUNDRAISING

EVERYTHING JAPANESE DONATION

If you have any Japanese items that you would like to donate to the Temple to support fundraising, please email mhkuta@outlook.com.

CALGARY BUDDHIST TEMPLE

ANNUAL CHOW MEIN & RIBS DINNER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025

Take-out only. \$20/plate

Pickups from 3:00 to 6:00 PM at the Calgary Buddhist Temple
(658-1st Ave NE). Please remember to bring your own reusable or plastic bag(s)



BAKE SALE

Delicious desserts, cakes,
cupcakes, pies and more will
also be available

FOR TICKETS

Email: calgarytemplevolunteer@gmail.com

Tickets will also be available at the temple
after Sunday services



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Sunday, Oct 12 and Sunday, Nov 30

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

Two Sundays left in 2025 where we'll be providing lunch service at the Calgary Drop-In Centre. Ten volunteers (18 years of age & older) are needed each day. 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.

OCT 12: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0849A5A82FA3F49-55158795-community>

NOV 30: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0849A5A82FA3F49-55158812-community>

BE IN THE FOLD

Sunday, Oct 19 | 10:45am kids session & 11:30am adult session

No, this isn't a folding with Marie Kondo workshop – hahaha. We have a guest instructor who will come to the temple to show us how to create a few origami which is the Japanese art of paper folding. Using the special paper, we can use the origami pieces to design lovely, personalized cards. Supplies will be provided.

Dharma School session will begin around 10:45am and adult session at 11:30am. No registration required for this workshop but there is a suggested donation of \$5/person.

Come for fun with origami and card making!





FALL IKEBANA CLASS

September 13th, September 27th, October 11th, November 1st, November 15th



Classes will be held on Saturday afternoons at The Calgary Buddhist Temple from 1:30 pm to 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.

Rika's contact info koufuikebana@gmail.com

JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY

Sunday, Oct 26, 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.

Due to popular demand, we are holding this second Japanese Calligraphy workshop of 2025. You'll be learning the basics and how to use the tools, and 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 \$12.00/person. Space is limited so don't miss out! We look forward to your participation.



To signup, go to <https://bit.ly/Sangha-Calligraphy2>. We gratefully acknowledge support from the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society.



KOKORO NO TAIKO ("TAIKO OF THE HEART")

Saturday, Nov8, 2025 | 11:00am-12:00pm



Drum with all your heart with the Calgary Buddhist Temple Sangha who are honored to have the renown group, Midnight Taiko Kai, hold a 1 hour introductory workshop at the Temple. Come and engage with the members of Midnight and the Sangha, gain an overview of the history of Taiko, learn about the different Taiko drums used in an ensemble, and let loose.

Cost is \$20.00/person (minimum age is 12) - space is limited and if full, there is a possibility of a second intro session in the afternoon on the same day.

Register early! <https://bit.ly/CBT-Taiko-1>

This thrilling workshop is open to the public and we gratefully acknowledge support from the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society.

UPCOMING SANGHA ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

November - December

- Nov 9: Furoshiki Workshop 2-4:00pm
- Nov 16: Mindful Lego Builders (Show & Tell)
- Dec 14: Sashiko Stitching Time (self-guided)





SELFLESS GIVING



Annually, the Temple puts up a tree at the front of the hondo for the collection of toys as well as items of warm clothing for those less fortunate. This year, the toys will be going to the “Baby It’s Cold Outside” charity, and warm clothing to the Calgary Drop-In Centre. Let’s continue to show kindness and compassion for others. Starting in October and ends on Sunday, Nov 30

- 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.

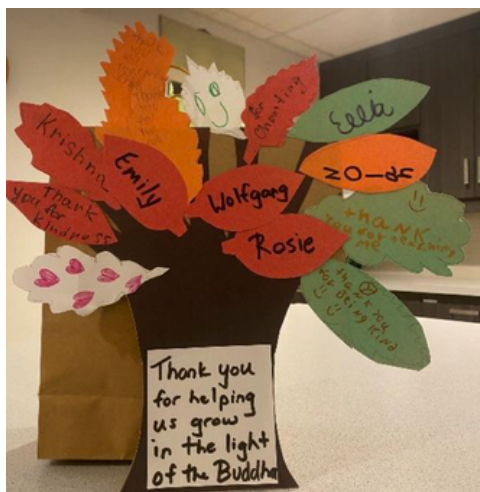
Money or gift card donations should be given directly to Susan Huntley or Laurie Takeda for collection.

PAST WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

SUNDAY SUNDAE FOR SENSEI

On Sunday, Sep 21st, we showed sincere appreciation to our Sensei Robert Gebenco by holding a special Sundae Sunday for Sensei and presenting him with a gift from the Dharma Time kids and the Temple with our thanks for his dedication and trusted guidance.

Thank you, Sensei!





CHIGIRI-E - CHRYSANTHEMUM



Chigiri-e (ちぎり絵) uses colored paper that is torn to create images, and this technique has been practiced for centuries, results in artwork that embodies both cultural heritage and contemporary creativity.

Valliant attempts were made at the Sep 14 workshop to create the chrysanthemum which symbolizes royalty, longevity and rejuvenation.

The materials were prepared by our patient instructor, Mrs. Fujiko (Fuji) Vrba, and we had fun learning ways to put together our own unique piece of artwork. Thank you, Fuji!

GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY WITH THE SANGHA!

Kokedama (苔玉), meaning “moss ball” in Japanese, is a centuries-old bonsai-inspired art form where a plant's roots are wrapped in soil and moss instead of a pot.

The Calgary Buddhist Temple Sangha did indeed get our hands very dirty on Sep 20 as we constructed our own living artwork and walked through the process to create beautiful, unique plants to take home.

Thank you to our instructor, Lindsay Gilmour, of Plant Plant for sharing your knowledge and skills in making the workshop so enjoyable.



WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE SUPPORT FROM THE JAPANESE CANADIAN LEGACIES SOCIETY.



LIBRARY NEWS

The library will be open on the third Sunday of the month. Come downstairs and browse the books while you enjoy a cup of tea!

I am looking forward to meeting you and would greatly appreciate feedback on books, especially book recommendations that you may have.

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.



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.

Thanks, Kim and Masaye



AUGUST DONATIONS

Canada Helps

Cramer, N.
*In memory of Joe Komaric, Masuo
& Miyeko Oshiro*
Dodds A,
Ghann, J.
Giggs, M.

Haddon, S.
Howard, L.
Kamanishi, E.
McCullagh, B.
Miyanishi, K.
Post, D.

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

Temple Donations

Anonymous
Auld, B
Karakama, S.

Masuda, M.
McCormack, D.
Odagaki, S.

Ota, F.
Porteous, A.
Skingle, K. & N.