

Sangha News

March–April
2010

What is a Monto Shikisho?



The Monto Shikisho is a cloth often worn by followers of the Nembutsu path of Shin Buddhism during Temple Services . Shikisho means ‘sash’ and ‘Monto’ means ‘people’ and wearing one shows that you are a follower of Shin Buddhism.

In addition to showing membership in our sangha, its wearing is also an acknowledgement that “the Nembutsu does not choose priest over lay person, and it does not choose lay person over priest.” In other words, all followers of Shin Buddhism have equality.

The Shikisho was originally an adaptation of the Kesa cloth worn by the Buddhist monks of Japan . The Kesa is now worn by our Buddhist Ministers.

The understanding of equality arises “when one considers the statement that Shinran Shonin made when he declared that he was "neither monk, nor lay person."

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The shiki-sho, patterned after the kesa of the monks, became the symbol to show that in the Light of Amida Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom it does not matter whether you are "not a monk" or "not a lay person."

We all live equally supported within the ‘ocean’ of Infinite Wisdom and Infinite Compassion that is called Amida Buddha and the Monto Shikisho is one symbol we use to express this.

Information adapted from John Iwohara Sensei’s article <http://www.vbtemple.org/vistaview/1996/vv9608.htm> (used with permission)

Special points of interest:

Mar 21, Higan-e

(Spring Equinox)
Spring or Fall equinox service. *Higan* is an abbreviated form of "to higan", meaning "reaching the other shore (of Enlightenment)". It has been a long Buddhist tradition at these times to gather before the sacred shrine of Amida, meditating on the harmony of nature and devoting ourselves to the realization of this harmony in our lives.



March 24 & 31 from 7-9pm

Laughter Yoga facilitated by Laughter Yoga Canada - "Laughing for Peace, Loving Kindness and Well Being" \$10 person or \$15 if you bring a buddy. For more information contact Leslie through info@calgary-buddhist.ab.ca

Coffee Connections Party March 18

Everyone is invited to a Coffee Connections Party to be held March 18 at 2:30 PM.

This event will help support the Women's Center of Calgary. A guest speaker from the Women's Center will be available to provide information on services provided and accept donations. Tax receipts for donations greater than \$10 will be issued. Please empower women Calgary.

Temple Visit to Cochrane Ecological Institute April 25



The Dharma school has a field trip planned for CEI April 25 and as I (James) will be in Vancouver that weekend the temple will not have a service so the whole sangha is invited to go. I can have a signup sheet at the temple and can try to arrange carpooling if possible. Leaving the temple at 10:30 gets everyone out by noonish and they should take a bag lunch with them.

Donation of minimum \$5/person are appreciated. Tour and talk included. Visit <http://www.ceinst.org/>

*Knock on the sky and Listen to the
sound
- Zen Saying*



Progress of the Kelowna Buddhist Temple Seniors Housing Project

Purpose of the project

- To create a seniors complex for Buddhist community
- To find a way to create monetary income stream for the Temple because current income funding sources are getting more difficult as members are aging

Solution: The Seniors Housing committee has been set up with the following members: George Hayashi, Shirley Tanemura, Brian Yamaoka, Morio Tahara, and Reg Tomiye to explore the Seniors Housing complex concept as way of creating capital to augment the funding requirements of the Temple.

Jeff Hickin has volunteered to assist the committee to explore the opportunity. A study has been prepared by Jeff Hickin outlining the economics and concept design of the project. It is estimated that 25 units can fit into the property and that upon full lease, substantial capital can be raised for the Temple which can be invested with the income received to be used to cover most of the operating costs of the Temple for the Temples activities.

The Project

Concept design is timber frame construction with Japanese styling and multilevel terraces of units.

When empty nesters are faced with the need to down size, the “where to go” and “what to buy” can be tough decisions. Kelowna Buddhist Seniors Life Lease makes the choice easier. You purchase the right to occupy the suite of your choice for as long as you wish, provided you are capable of independent living. As residents age, other residents tend to look out for one another, giving a feeling of peace and a sense of belonging. Residents may also take an active role in managing the property and organizing activities and programs. This provides a sense of purpose that is not available to someone isolated in a single home or condo.

Point to consider

1. Do you want to leave your single family home but don't want to rent?
2. Are you house equity rich but income poor?
3. Is keeping your single family home becoming a physical and financial burden?
4. Do you want to live in a community of like minded seniors?
5. Your house may be worth more than the cost of the seniors unit allowing you to use the excess capital for additional income.

This unique occupancy arrangement offers the important benefits of home ownership without the hassles of yard work, and finding someone to look after your place when leaving for vacation or having to worry about maintenance costs.

Update from the Office of Bishop:

March 2010

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada
11786 Fentiman Pl. Richmond, BC V7E 6M6
Web: livingdharmacentre.ca

Winter Olympics is just around the corner and the Vancouverites are very anxious about snow as they enjoy balmy weather and see flowers coming up.

May you all enjoy good health and spirits in the light of compassion of Amida Buddha.

Our mother temple Hongwanji will start commemorating the 750th Memorial Service of Shinran Shonin (1173-1263) in April 2011 in Kyoto, which will last until January 16, 2012. And our national organization plans to commemorate in four different locations and dates; May 29-30 in Toronto, September 12 in Manitoba, September 25-26 in BC and November 13-14 in Alberta. These are excellent opportunities to promote our tradition Jodo Shinshu in this country.

About 800 years of history of Jodo Shinshu have nurtured innumerable Nembutsu followers and some of them are called Myoukounin, outstanding and exemplary people who have cherished the teaching of Nembutsu.

I would like to introduce one of them whose name is Shouma of Sanuki (present day Shikoku Island). Although he couldn't read or write, nor count the money very well, he had a good habit of attending the temple regularly to listen to the Buddha-Dharma. He even memorized the Gobunsho, the letters of messages written by Rennyō Shonin.

His buddies once tried to embarrass him in public by asking him to read a paragraph from the Larger Sutra. Without hesitation he accepted the Sutra humbly and told everyone, "This Sutra tells me that Amida Buddha never fails to save Shouma as I am."

And once he went before the shrine of Amida Buddha and lay down side ways on the mat as he was tired. Some people around him accused him of his bad manners in front of the sacred shrine. His reply was, "We are all here before Amida Buddha, our Oyasama, Parent of all parents. So let us make ourselves at home."

In gassho, Namoamidabutsu, Orai Fujikawa

Coming events;

Feb 27-28 BCA 750th Memorial of Shinran Shonin in San Jose, Cal.
Mar 4 Rogers Pass Snow Slide Commemoration in Revelstoke, BC
5 Visit to Kamloops Buddhist Temple

14 VBT Higan Service
20 BCJSBCF meeting in Hope, BC
Apr 17-18 Hanamatsuri Services in Nanaimo/Victoria
22-25 JSBTC MA, Board, AGM in Steveston, BC

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Women's Federation (JSBTC WF)

The JSBTC WF consists of 15 chapters across Canada of which the Calgary Temple has many active members. The JSBTC WF works hard to increase the awareness of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and support worthwhile organizations.



March 21st is the WF Dana Day

This is the day that all donations made at the Temple go to the JSBTC WF in order to aid Buddhist endeavours. The 2009 Dana Day funds gathered from across Canada was divided between Humanitarian Guiding Light Foundation (Kenya water purification project - Rocky Oishi) and Kathmandu, Nepal temple.

“Truly, we live a life of joy in the Nembutsu to come to understand it and share it with others.”

Stamp out Waste – Recycling Postage Stamps & Foreign Coins



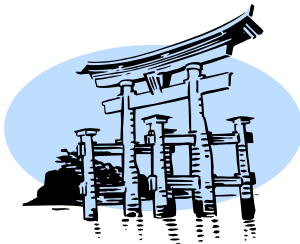
Stamps: The JSBTC WF continues to collect stamps for “Save the Children”. Money raised helps provide a better life and brighter future for children from impoverished countries. Please leave ¼” to ½” of envelope around the stamp. This charity sells the stamps to dealers; stamp duplicates are not a problem.

Every year, Calgary members helped to recycle stamps to save them from going to waste. Let's keep it up! A jar is available at the back of the temple for everyone to drop off all used stamps.

Foreign Coins: Do you have any foreign coins that you won't be using? The JSBTC WF also collects foreign coins to fundraise for Oxfam.



Japan in 2011



The 14th World Buddhist Women's (WBW) Convention will be held in Kyoto, Japan in conjunction with the 750th Memorial for Shinran Shonin is May 16th and 17th - The Minister Association is working on preparing a tour package and options so that group travel may be available.

The Convention is open to men and women, and brings together members from Japan, United States, Hawaii, Sao Paulo, and Canada so if anyone is interested in attending this very special event, please let Susan Huntley email susan.huntley@davincibb.net so you're keep up-to-date on the plans!

**March 2010
Calendar of Events**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 2:30 pm Service 7:30 pm service: Movie Night	5	6
7 9:30 am Mediation 10:30 am Shotsuki/monthly Memorial Services & Dharma School	8 Casino	9 Casino	10	11 2:30 pm Service 7:30 pm service:	12	13
14 9:30 am Mediation 10:30 am Service	15	16	17	18 2:30 pm Coffee Connections 7:30 pm service:	19	20
21 9:30 am Meditation 10: 30 am Spring Equinox Service, JSBTC WF Dana Day, Dharma School, Temple	22	23	24 7 – 9 pm Laughter Yoga	25 2:30 pm Service 7:30 pm service:	26	27

AGM

28	29	30	31
9:30 am Meditation 10:30 am Service and Cleaning Meditation			7 - 9 pm Laughter Yoga

April 2010
Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 2:30 pm Service 7:30 pm service: Movie Night	2	3
4 9:30 am Mediation 10:30 am Shotsuki/monthly Memorial Services	5	6	7	8 2:30 pm Service 7:30 pm service:	9	10
11 9:00 am Mediation 10:30 am Hanamatsuri Service & Dharma School	12	13	14	15 2:30 pm Service 7:30 pm service:	16	17

18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 am Meditation 10: 30 am Service 1 pm Introduction to Buddhism			7 pm Board Meeting	2:30 pm Service 7:30 pm service:		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10:30 am NO SERVICE Dharma School and Temple Trip To CEI				2:30 pm Service 7:30 pm service:		

Legacy

I was recently reminded to think about what legacy I want to leave after I have passed on. Materialistic things have a finite life expectancy and can be lost or broken or stolen, but when you support something like the Buddhist Temple, one understands that this would make a good legacy. At funerals, they never talk about the huge TV you had or the car you drove... it would be about your legacy. I understand that we are all busy; I understand that we are tired of being the few to volunteer; I understand we have done our part for the Temple or the Community; but I still feel that these may be selfish excuses. Doing what you want, when you want it... without feeling any commitment, is like smoke – easily blown away, like life without substance or form... the foundation has been laid for us by our parents and grandparents, don't drop the ball because you are busy. Being asked to clean the Temple or sit on the Executive shouldn't be the most difficult thing you do in life – think about it! I've often felt that things were hectic enough in my life but you know what I do... I try to make time to help where I can and I feel better for it.



Thank you to all the volunteers that support the Temple – don't quit as we need you! This is about promoting the Dharma, it is about being motivated to work on behalf of others, and it is about Spiritual Well-being, Culture, and Community.

In gassho, Susan (*Note: Special thanks to my brother, Jerry Takeda of the Kelowna Buddhist Temple, for the excerpts I used from an article he'd written.*)

We are on the Web:
www.calgary-buddhist.ab.ca

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Calgary AB T2E 3Y1
Tel: 403-263-5723
Email: info@calgary-buddhist.ab.ca



Temple Camping Trip

Are you interested in going camping June 26-27? If you are, contact Sara through info@calgary-buddhist.ab.ca

In this issue:

**New Workshop at the
Temple: Laughter Yoga**

March 24 & 31 from 7-9pm,

On March 24 and 31 come to the temple and learn from Laughter Yoga Canada about “Laughter for Peace, Loving Kindness and Well Being.

The cost is \$10 for two evenings or \$15 for you and a friend for two evenings