

NENJU NEWS

*Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Volume 2, Issue 1
March, 2020*

JSBTC VISION AND MISSION

*Vision: A community living a
life of gratitude on the path of
the Buddha Dharma*

*Mission: Acting as a catalyst for
growing a network of Jodo
Shinshu Buddhist centres
through dynamic and focused
leadership*



FROM THE BOARD

Once again, we are emerging from winter, with the days getting longer and a bit warmer. Soon some of us will have flowers blooming as we look forward to Hanamatsuri and JSBTC's Annual General Meeting.

This year, the AGM is being hosted by Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta in Lethbridge, on April 24, 25, and 26. The Board and the Ministerial Association will be meeting on April 22 and 23, with the Living Dharma Centre and the Women's Federation leadership team joining them on April 24. This year, Socho and the Board are planning a full day of Saturday activities with a Dharmarathon involving the ministers, a special presentation on charitable giving, and a Hongwanji update from Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara from the Jodo Shinshu International Office in Berkeley. We will be joining the members of BTSA on Saturday night at a banquet to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the opening of the BTSA.

In preparing for the AGM, please remember that the Board Secretary will need Temple Reports and Resolutions no later than **Friday March 20**. The AGM Package will be sent out to Temples **the week of March 30**. In the meantime however, please contact Trudy Gahlinger, Board Secretary if you have any questions. trudygahlinger@gmail.com

In addition, please give some thought to nominating someone from your Temple for the national Board as there will be a few vacancies. At our 2019 Fall Interim Board meeting, we envisioned a national Board that would have representation from every Temple city in Canada. This Board would have the deepest understanding of the unique Temple communities that we serve, and in turn, would be able to provide the most effective support. Let's work together to achieve this vision!

There are a number of benefits from being on the national Board (it's not all just work!). Here are three to consider:

- Get to visit and know the diversity of Shin Temples across Canada
- By being involved nationally, I've become more effective on my local Board
- Directors provide incredible support to each other in times of personal challenge

AGM REGISTRATION INFORMATION <http://www.thebtsa.com/events/jsbtc-annual-general-meeting/>

Comments? Suggestions? We would love to hear from you

jsbtcnewsletter@gmail.com

DHARMA MESSAGE - REV. GRANT IKUTA

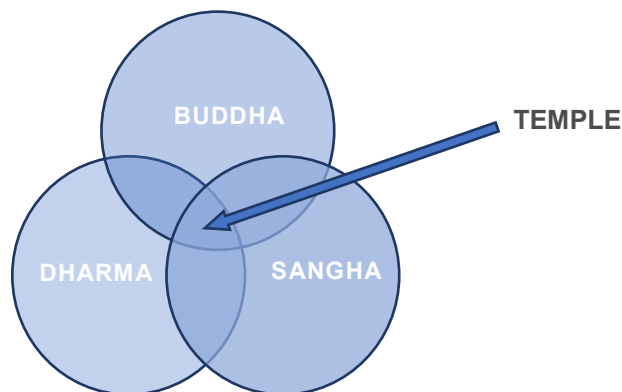
The Temple is Calling You

Late last year, I was asked by Laura Sugimoto, the editor for the national newsletter, to submit an article for the upcoming JSBTC Newsletter. Laura emailed me saying, "Guess what? It's your turn to star in our National Newsletter, would you be so kind as to write something for the upcoming issue?" Well, with such a gracious offer, how could I refuse? In all seriousness, I am truly honored to have been asked to submit an article and I hope you will allow me to share some of my thoughts.

In late December, I received a phone call from a member of the Toronto Buddhist Church asking me for advice and assistance. My family and I have had a close friendship with Ms. W. as her sons and our boys are of the same age and grew up together in Toronto. Ms. W. told me her 88 years old mother was in critical condition and she didn't know how to proceed. Without going into details, Ms. W. was unable to get the services of the resident minister of Toronto and she was wondering what to do. After some consultation, it was agreed upon that I could help out by conducting the Last Rite or the Pillow Side service (known as Makuragyo in Japanese) using the internet to connect us. Using video messenger, we were able to connect a laptop computer set up bedside in Ms. W.'s mother's room with a laptop which I had set up in the Hondo of our temple. It was the first virtual Makuragyo service that I was involved with and to all of our surprise, it actually went as well as it could have under the circumstances.

The incident with Ms. W. made me think on the roles of our temples and ministers. Why was it that my chanting was able to give the family support and strength, even though we were separated by a great distance connected only through the internet? My ego would have me say that it was because of my compassion and kindness that provided the comfort to the family, but the true reality is much greater than my small deeds. The true reality is that Ms. W. had been going to the temple since she was a child and she had also taken her sons to attend the temple regularly, so the chanting and the Onembutsu had great meaning for them and they were able to feel a sense of comfort in hearing the chanting for Ms. W.'s mother.

One of the fundamental concepts in Buddhism is the idea of the Three Treasures or Jewels. At our temples we regularly take refuge in the Three Treasures of the Buddha, Dharma and the Sangha. The Buddha was a historical being but is also a title which means awakened or enlightened one. The Dharma is the teachings and the Sangha is the Buddhist community. Although they seem like three separate entities, their interaction is most important and can be illustrated using the following Diagram.



I showed this diagram at the Fraser Valley Temple during a recent service and Lucy Yoshioka reminded me that the diagram is known as Venn Diagram and it is used to show the inter-related nature of items. In this case, it is showing the connections between the Buddha, Dharma and the Sangha. As you can see from the diagram, there are certain portions of the circles that overlap with one another. Some parts of the circle overlap between only two circles, but in the center all three circles overlap.

An example of just two of the circles overlapping might be something like when we watch a you tube video of a Dharma talk in the comforts of our homes. In this case, the Buddha and the Dharma may be there, but clearly what is missing is the community or Sangha. Another example might be when we recite Namu Amida Butsu while lying in bed, just before we nod off to sleep. In this situation there is a very personal relationship between the individual (Sangha) and the Buddha, but we are probably not thinking about the teachings while we recite the Nembutsu.

From the above Venn diagram, it is easy to see that the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha all intersect at the core and this is for us as Jodo Shinshu followers is the Nembutsu teaching of Amida Buddha that we receive when we come to the temple. The key phrase here is "**come to the temple**". For it is at the temple that we find the Buddha, Dharma, and most importantly the Sangha.

I am filled with gratitude when I reflect on all the wonderful encounters I have had through my association with the temple. Ms. W. also encountered Namu Amida Butsu through coming to the temple. Please take this opportunity to reflect on how the temple has affected your life. In a world in which more and more people are feeling isolated and alone, how wonderful is it that there is a place that welcomes you just as you are. If you have been coming out already to the temples, rejoice in the past causes and conditions that have brought you. If you haven't been coming to the temple, why not give it a try, it will change your life.

Grant Masami Ikuta

DOB: September 1, 1964 (55 years old)

Graduated from University of Alberta (B.Sc.) in 1987, then attended Ryukoku University Bekka program, receiving Tokudo Ordination in the fall of 1988. After studying at the Central Buddhist Academy, enrolled in Ryukoku University Post Graduate Studies in 1990. Received Kyoshi Ordination in May 1990 and completed Master's Program in Shinshu Studies Ryukoku University, in 1992. He became the first Canadian Sansei (third generation Japanese-Canadian) and third generation minister to serve within the Buddhist Churches of Canada.



He has served as Minister at the Toronto Buddhist Church from 1992 – 2008 and as Bishop of Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (2011- 2013). From 2008 - present he has been the Minister at Steveston Buddhist Temple. In addition to his ministerial duties at Steveston Buddhist Temple, he is an instructor for the English Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course, and for the past 5 years has been the Ministerial Association Chairperson within the JSBTC.

Since 2013 has been planning together with 2020 committee members a strategy for the continuation of the Steveston Buddhist Temple for the next 50 years. Presently part of the Wisteria Place Independent Senior Housing Project which is in the midst of being constructed on the temple grounds. The Senior Housing will provide some financial income for the temple allowing the temple to function for years to come.

Grew up in Vancouver, Kyoto, and Calgary. Married Noriko (also a student at the Central Buddhist Academy) in 1992. Has four children: Arthur Masaaki (27), Dylan Shingo (24), Courtney Ayano (17), Erin Akane (16)
Hobbies include: sports in general (both playing and watching), avid basketball and hockey fan - Toronto Raptors and Calgary Flames fan. Love eating and enjoy cooking as well.

Favourite Japanese word: 忙しい (Isogashii) which means 'to be busy' is my favourite word because of the meaning behind the word. The character is composed of 2 halves. The left side '小' is known as りっしんべん (risshinben) and it is an abbreviation of the character '心'(kokoro), which means 'heart' or 'mind', 'the central portion of our being'. The right side '亡'(nakusu) means to lose. Therefore, when we put the two together and we get the word for busy, 忙しい (Isogashii), which literally means to lose ones' mind or heart. It is expressing the loss of focus or balance, which is what happens when we are busy.



FROM THE TEMPLES

The History of the Steveston Buddhist Temple

The first temple in Steveston was completed at 1291 Second Ave. in the heart of the village of Steveston in September 1928. The congregation of about 200 families held services here until the outbreak of WWII, when Japanese-Canadians were forcibly removed from the west coast by the Canadian government.

Following the war, in 1949 the government lifted the ban of Japanese-Canadians living on the West Coast allowing many families to move back to the Steveston area. The vast majority of those who moved back to the area were involved in the booming fishing industry. At the time, there were 13 canneries located at the mouth of the Fraser river. Many of the men worked as fishermen while the wives worked in the canneries.

The second Steveston Buddhist Temple was established in March 1954 when the congregation purchased the former Japanese Kindergarten building located just west of the corner of Chatham and No. 1 Rd.

Finally, in 1960, a five-acre property was purchased on Garry St. and plans for a new temple took place under the architectural firm of Mr. Arnulf Petzold. Construction began in 1962 and was completed on December 23rd, 1963. Over 400 people attended the opening service. The temple has existed on the present site ever since and is the oldest standing Buddhist Temple in the lower mainland area.

Over the course of its 92-year history, the Steveston Buddhist Temple has served primarily as a religious centre where the congregation has gathered for regular Sunday services as well as other religious functions such as funerals, weddings and memorial services.

The temple has also been an integral part of the cultural mosaic of the village of Steveston. It has opened its doors to the public and has served with activities including establishing the first Japanese language classes in Steveston over 50 years ago, many bazaars and Festivals (Obon Odori Festivals), and weekly public Bingo which has been ongoing for over 40 years.

Looking to the future, the Steveston Buddhist Temple is in the process of building the Wisteria Place independent senior housing complex which will be open in the spring of 2021. With the building of the new structure, we look forward to continuing being an important part of the Steveston community for years to come.

The History of Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple

The end of the second world war meant that many Japanese Canadians felt the urge to return to their coastal homes, but it wasn't until the early 1950's that this migration took place. Mr. Shoji Fukawa and Mr. Denjiro Okabe families were two of the first families back. As others returned to the Fraser Valley and religious needs began to arise, a small group of farming families decided that holding services at Aberdeen Hall once in a while was not enough. Reverend Shinjo Ikuta came when he could but since he was serving all of B.C. at the time, it was extremely difficult.

Late in 1953 Mr. Kazuo Imamura donated one acre of land on which the temple could be built. 15 families donated funds for the construction. Mr. Shoji Fukawa acted as building chairman and work was done by volunteers. The congregation was able to do all the construction with only one exception. No one was able to do the bricklaying, so the chimney had to be contracted out to professionals. For the Hondo, Reverend Shinjo Ikuta arranged for the purchase of the hotokesan. This obutsudan is still in use today. The large beams on either side of the altar were brought from the mill in Mission and carved by Mr. Suekichi Honkawa while the altar drapes were donated to the temple by Mr. S Arakawa. Mr. Kahei Kamimura donated lumber from his mill in Tashme. Despite the pressures of rebuilding their own farms, these far thinking families managed to build the Fraser Valley Buddhist which stood for 47 years.

The first president was Mr. Suekichi Honkawa and Mr. Shoki Fukawa was the treasurer. At the front of the property stands two trees donated by Mr. Juichi Katsumoto. It was believed that if these trees were planted on spiritually good land, they would grow pods. If you check the trees in the summer you will find them laden with these good luck pods.

In the fall of 2001 the temple was almost destroyed by a fire. Once again a group of people, many of whom were children and grandchildren of the founders, came together to restore the building. In 2003 Mrs. Irene Rohrer and Mrs. Lucy Yoshioka attended the JSBTC (then known as the Buddhist Churches of Canada) Annual General meeting in Calgary to petition for assistance in the rebuilding. Following the JSBTC's enthusiastic support, the rebuilding process began with help coming from all the temples across Canada and from the United States both financially and physically. Mr. Stan Yoshioka acted as building chairman. Mr. Ron Fujita, a professional carpenter, undertook all the physical planning acting as hands on foreman. We, the younger old sangha, became labourers, painters, floor layers and gofers doing as much of the work possible. The sangha and friends from the lower mainland worked weekends and weekdays in the summer as the new building rose from the ashes. Amazingly, much of the najin items were able to be rescued, including the wooden "Amida" statue which now stands again in its place in the center of the

shrine. It is a little “sunburned” but very well loved. Mr. Joe Tateyama, who had been the president of the temple for almost 20 years, passed the torch to Ms. Naomi Shikaze who wrote in the 50th anniversary booklet “the rebuilding process was cathartic and it enabled us to come together again as a revitalized Buddhist community”.

Finally in 2004 the rebuilding of the temple was completed. Mr. and Mrs. Mitsuo Saito brought a small ginkgo tree to be planted by the front steps. It too is flourishing.

It is now the year 2020. It has been 16 years since the rebuild and will be the 65th anniversary of the spirit of the temple. The FVBT sangha feels immense gratitude to so many, from the original founding families to the past and present sangha for all their effort in keeping the Temple alive as a place to hear and practice the Buddha’s teachings. We continue to celebrate the joy of listening to the Dharma as we walk together the path of the Nembutsu.



FROM THE JSBTC—WHAT IT SUPPORTS

Ministerial Association

An important facet of the National Newsletter is to inform our members from across Canada about the various organizations belonging within the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples. As the present chairperson for the Ministerial Association, I have the pleasure of introducing our association.

So, what is the Ministerial Association and what is its primary function? Very simply put, the Ministerial Association is a professional organization comprised of Kaikyoshi ministers belonging to the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada. We gather twice a year, once at the National AGM and a second time in the fall. During our meetings we review activities at the local temple level as well as discuss concerns and issues that affect us collectively. At least once a year we try to participate in some form of workshop for our own professional development as well as meeting together with the National Board to further the cause of Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Propagation within Canada.

In one form or another, the ministerial association has existed from the beginning of the Buddhist Churches of Canada and perhaps one of the most important functions is to allow ministers from across the country to get together with others in similar situations. For the majority of our ministers, there usually is not another Jodo Shinshu minister within the same city or even within the same province, as in the case of Toronto. Because of this, it can at times be lonely without professional peers to be able to consult with and talk about issues. The Ministerial Association provides this opportunity and allows us to refocus on spreading the Buddha Dharma in Canada.

A portion of the annual assessment for the JSBTC goes to support the activities of the Ministerial Association and we are grateful for your continued support. As one of the pillars of the JSBTC we look forward to continuing to serve the Hongwanji and the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Movement in Canada.

In Gassho,

Grant Ikuta, Chair

Ministerial Association

WHAT WE DO: OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

For the JSBTC:

- Represent the whole JSBTC organization
- Offer spiritual direction and guidance to the JSBTC on social, medical and ethical issues
- Select and support the Socho
- Provide leadership to the Temples
- Take initiative in developing new programs and materials
- Encourage sangha members to think and reflect
- Present the dharma and a voice of reason during times of conflict
- Support the Hongwanji
- Communicate with the Hongwanji through the Socho

For Ministers:

- Share the dharma; help each other grow
- Support ministers emotionally, physically and spiritually
- Share our expertise
- Voice the ministers' concerns to the Socho, MA Chairperson and/ or the JSBTC Board
- Promote the individual welfare of ministers (and their families), including healthy working conditions
- Protect the rights of ministers.

WHAT MAKES OUR ASSOCIATION UNIQUE?

- We're ministers (with families), not monks or nuns
- We're Buddhist ministers in a society where Buddhism does not have a long history
- We promote the dharma
- We have a diversity of backgrounds and experiences
- We bridge different cultures e.g. Japanese and Canadian
- We've adjusted relevant traditions and created new traditions without changing our core teachings.

WE COLLABORATE WITH THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS

- JSBTC
- Hongwanji
- Buddhist Churches of America
- Local Buddhist organizations
- Local universities and colleges, especially those with Buddhist studies.

OUR STRUCTURE

- The Socho provides leadership, direction and guidance to the Association
- Our Chair is a non-voting advisor to the JSBTC Board
- Our Chair is chosen by the Ministers.

MINISTERS' RETIREMENT FUND

The Ministers' Retirement Fund (MRF) was created under a Trust Agreement in 2007 from donations raised by Socho Susumu Ikuta . The purpose of the trust was to create income that could be used as an income supplement for retired JSBTC ministers and their spouses. The Trust Agreement contemplates that four trustees are appointed from four geographic districts (British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario/Quebec), and that they are empowered to manage the investment of the trust and the distribution of trust earnings within the guidelines provided by the agreement.

At the AGM in 2014, a resolution was passed directing the Board to clarify the process for appointing Trustees. In 2016/2017, after discussions among the Ministerial Association, the JSBTC Board, and the Trustees at that time [Robert Yamashita (Manitoba), Peter Post (Ontario/Quebec), Lester Ikuta (Alberta) and David Ohori (British Columbia)], it was agreed that the Trust Agreement would be revised to clarify the appointment of Trustees, to determine what income interest could be disbursed from the fund and to ensure that income interest was also reinvested in the fund, and to bring the agreement in line with Revenue Canada requirements. At that time, the then Trustees willingly resigned, and the JSBTC Board appointed as Trustees Larry Wakisaka (Ontario/Quebec), Harvey Kaita (Manitoba), Laura Sugimoto (Alberta), and Debra Campbell Hayashi (British Columbia).

Since the first disbursements from the fund in 2014 to Rev. Ulrich and Rev. Fujiwara, the fund has disbursed funds annually to Rev. Ulrich and Rev. Fujiwara, to Rev. Hayashi's family after his death, and this year to Rev. Martin on his retirement.

The Trustees, the JSBTC board, and the Ministerial Association are very pleased with the growth of the fund through the investment portfolio over the last several years. However, we cannot just rely on growth of the fund through investment. It is very important that we continue to grow the fund through donations to ensure that all JSBTC ministers and their spouses can receive appropriate support during their well deserved retirements.

We want to acknowledge the efforts of the Manitoba Buddhist Temple in its contributions to the fund. In December, 2018, the MBT Board approved a donation of \$500 to the fund and challenged the MBT Sangha to match the amount. The MBT Sangha rose to the occasion and significantly exceeded the initial amount, with \$2065 in total being donated to the MRF. MBT has now made this an annual event and contributed \$1,800 towards the Fund in December 2019.

We encourage every Temple to take up this challenge!

Common ground: Retired Buddhist sensei to get Manitoba interfaith award

Over his three decades as a Buddhist leader, Sensei Fredrich Ulrich has seized every opportunity to help others understand his faith tradition and maybe their own as well.

So it may not be surprising that he plans to share some Buddhist wisdom when he receives an award for his interfaith work in January.

"Avoid killing, avoid stealing, avoid lying, avoid sexual abuse, avoid drugs and chemicals that pollute the body and mind," Ulrich says of the five precepts of Buddhism he plans to explain to the audience representing a cross-section of Winnipeg's religious leaders.

"These are the basic guidelines which Buddha related to the general population. It should be the basic guidelines from which Buddhism relates to religions."

The former Methodist minister and now-retired Buddhist leader receives the Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding at a ceremony at Government House on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020.

Previous winners include Michel Aziza for his work with Operation Ezra, interfaith educators and artists Manju Lodha and Ray Dirks, Rabbi Neal Rose and Carol Rose, former police chief Devon Clunis and columnist Karen Toole.

The annual award honours a Manitoban who has contributed to the community and brought people together to understand each other, says Belle Jarniewski, president of the Manitoba Multifaith Council.

"I think (the award) sheds a light on the importance of interreligious dialogue and understanding, especially at a time when the world seems to be filled with hate and violence," she says.

With a long involvement in interfaith activity in Winnipeg and his previous hometown of Edmonton, including participating in the Interfaith Round Table and the Manitoba Multifaith Council, Ulrich believes the basis for understanding each other starts by simply listening.

"In interfaith (work), we get a chance to talk to each other and work together and discover each other's humanity," the 80-year-old Ulrich says in an interview from his seventh-floor apartment in an East Kildonan highrise.

"It's a talking place."

And that talking place often starts with the basics of Buddhism, such as loving-kindness meditation, which Ulrich has taught to many people outside of his adopted faith tradition, including survivors of residential schools.

Born in a German-Métis family in rural Nebraska, Ulrich studied to become a Methodist minister and then a teacher, taking on teaching positions in Frankfurt, Germany, and Edmonton. Along the way, he became intrigued by eastern religions, and turned to the study of Buddhism, receiving ordination in 1987 as a priest in the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition.

He moved to Winnipeg in 1999 to take on leadership at the Manitoba Buddhist Temple, becoming its first priest, also known as sensei, not of Japanese origin.

"In essence, we've grown as a Buddhist community into a much broader community in terms of our knowledge and involvement," temple president Harvey Kaita says of the congregation founded by Japanese Canadians more than seven decades ago.

"Buddhism is about interdependence and what we've become aware of is our connections to the broader community," he says.

Kaita says Ulrich brought in new people to the temple through his public talks, his television show on Joy TV (now Hope TV) and his meditation classes.

Those classes were the introduction to Buddhism for Tanis Moore, now assistant priest at the temple, who nominated him for the award after attending last year's ceremony.

"He has connections to so many people," Moore says.

"Plus he's a mentor to me and he's such a giving person."

Ulrich has offered classes beyond Winnipeg, including in his daughter's United Church of Canada congregation in Sherwood Park, Alta., near Edmonton. Those classes create a connection between her Christian church and her father's Buddhist practice, says Rev. Britt Aerhart, minister of Salisbury United Church.

"It's good to recognize there are spiritual tools and practices that bridge between religions and we can learn about these from each other and it's a bit of a doorway to better understanding," says Aerhart, one of Ulrich's four children.

Ulrich remains committed to keeping that doorway open by encouraging people to leave their religious silos and learn a little bit more about each other.

"The challenge of religion is to find a story that's common to all of us," Ulrich says.

"Buddha embraces all living things with love and compassion and no one is left out."

SENSEI FRED ULRICH RECEIVES LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AWARD

Sensei Fred received the Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding at a ceremony at Government House on January 8th.

A tree known as the Regal Celebration Maple will be planted in honour of Sensei Fred along with him receiving a certificate to recognize his contributions to the interfaith community.

The annual award honours a Manitoban who has contributed to the community and brought people together to understand each other. Previous winners include Michel Aziza for his work with Operation Ezra, interfaith educators and artists Manju Lo-dha and Ray Dirks, Rabbi Neal Rose and Carol Rose, former police chief Devon Clunis and columnist Karen Toole.

We are very proud that Sensei Fred was recognized for his long involvement in interfaith activity in Winnipeg and his previous hometown of Edmonton, including participating in the Interfaith Round Table and the Manitoba Multifaith Council.

Congratulations Sensei Fred! It is a well-deserved honour.



Photos Courtesy of Robert Miyai



OTHER NEWS:

Sensei Joanne Yuasa commissioned in the Royal Canadian Chaplain’s Service

Congratulations to Joanne Sensei! Joanne Sensei was a ministerial assistant at Vancouver Buddhist Temple, until she moved to Toronto two years ago to continue post graduation studies. While in Toronto, she continued to work as JSBTC’s part-time bookkeeper, as well as assisting at the Toronto Buddhist Church. She has now been officially commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Chaplain’s Service and the Royal Canadian Air Force. She is the first Buddhist (and Jodo Shinshu) chaplain in the Service.



The chaplain (above) who did the ceremony came as a representative of the Chaplain General's office, saying how pleased everyone is that Buddhism is finally officially represented in the Royal Canadian Chaplain’s Service. She thanks everyone for their support, patience, and guidance throughout this process.

Joanne will no longer be working for the JSBTC, but she will continue to assist at TBC.

Kaikyoshi Candidate: Sensei Naoki Hirano

Sensei Naoki Hirano, a ministerial assistant at Steveston Buddhist Temple, will be leaving for Japan in April to begin one year of intensive training to become a Kaikyoshi minister. He expects to return to Canada in March 2021 to start work as a full time minister. The Living Dharma Centre and the Women’s Federation as well as the JSBTC are supporting his studies. We wish him all the best in his studies and look forward to his return to Canada.



April 2018 Chanting Workshop—Sensei Hirano seated at far end of the table

DID YOU KNOW? For many people outside of Japan, the word *sensei* is one of the first Japanese words they learn. In fact, *sensei* has become so commonly used that few people ever stop to think about what the word really means. I first learned it when I was enrolled in judo at 7 years old. “This is your teacher, Sensei Mike” I remember being told. At the time, I too took “sensei” to be just another word for teacher, but I eventually came to learn that there is a lot more to this seemingly simple word than that.

Sensei is composed of two kanji characters, the first of which mean “previous or “before” and the second which denotes “life”. Put together, they literally translate to “previous life” or “one born before” and represent someone who has an extensive amount of knowledge and experience. A *sensei* does not actually have to be older than you to warrant the title.

The word *sensei* is often used in both its noun and suffix form to describe an individual who has gained a substantial level of knowledge, enough to differentiate themselves from the average person. It is an honourific term; not just anyone can be a *sensei*.

If you ever find yourself being introduced to someone who has *sensei* attached to their name, it’s prudent to speak to them with courtesy and respect, as the things you might learn from them may be useful and enlightening. And perhaps, with enough experience and expertise, you might one day impart your own knowledge onto someone else as a *sensei* yourself.

(Daniel Legare, *Wasabi*, Vol 2, Issue 4, October/November 2019)

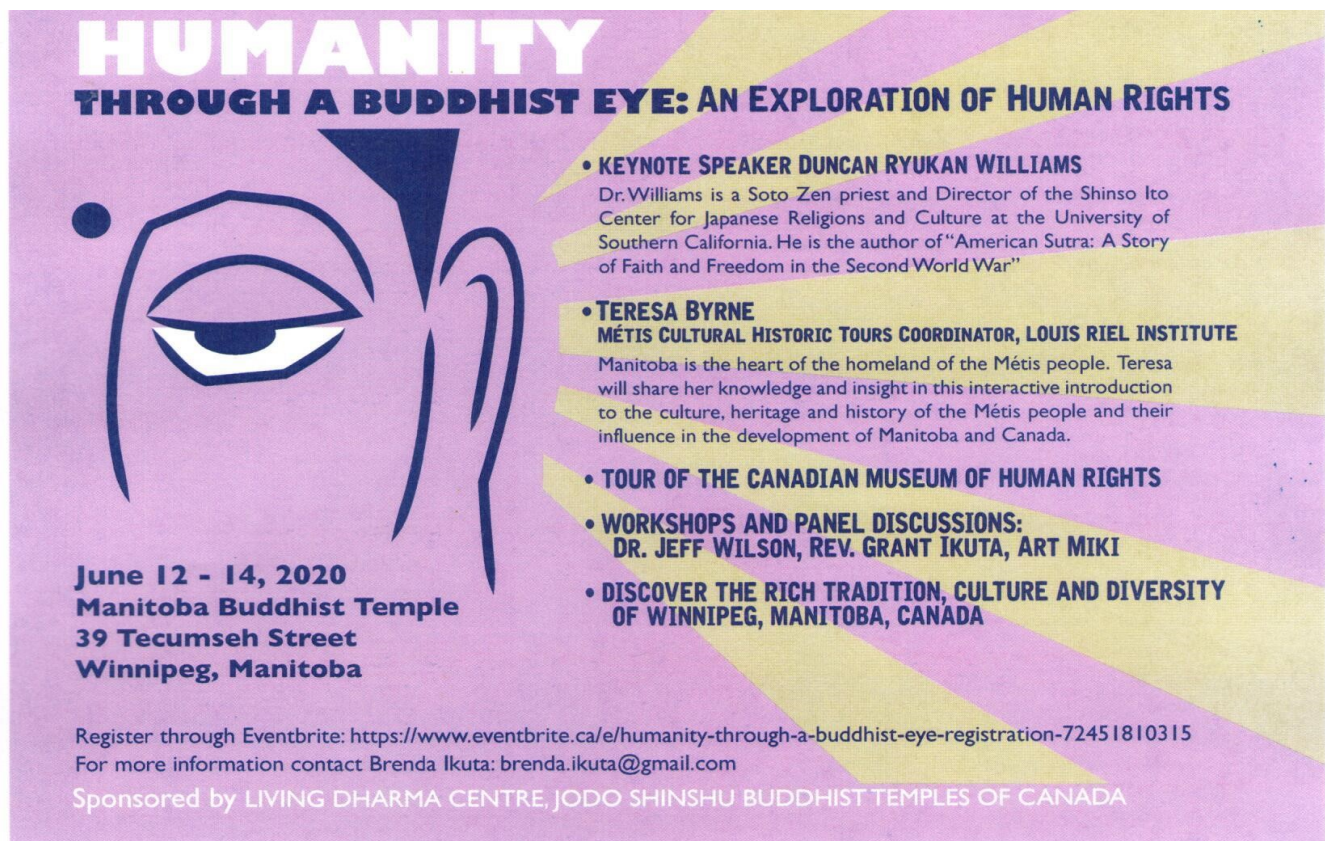
Changes in JSBTC Investment Portfolio Platforms

Over the summer, both of the JSBTC Investment Portfolio Managers made changes to their portfolio management structures.

Shipton, Duric and Associates principals Paul Shipton and Omar Duric advised us that they are transitioning from Hollisweath (recently acquired from ScotiaBank by Industrial Alliance) to Wellington Altus. Wellington Altus started in 1993 and in 2017 relaunched as an alternative to bank owned full-service investment dealers; it is a member of Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada (IIROC). Omar and Paul made the move primarily to gain access to a robust information technology platform. They felt that Wellington Altus's independence from bank ownership would enhance their ability to continue providing high quality investment advice and services. An added plus is that Wellington Altus uses the same custodial institution for the holding of all our assets as Hollisweath which made the completed transition (November 2019) a smooth one. We are already receiving better online access to our investment statements for accounts held with Shipton Duric which include the General, Women's Federation, Sustaining, Bishops Special and Living Dharma Centre Funds.

At around the same time, Mawer Investment Management, managers of our Minister Retirement Fund advised us that they are closing one of their smaller investment platforms called Mawer Direct Investing Ltd. As a result, they are moving our investments to the parent company, Mawer Investment Management. There is no change in our investment holdings, only a change in the legal entity managing our funds. When the JSBTC moved the Minister Retirement Fund from Desjardins to Mawer, the fund was much smaller and fit into the Direct Investing segment of Mawer's customer portfolio. Since then, the fund has moved to a value over \$1 million so the move to Mawer Investment Management is timely and we will continue to have full access to our original relationship manager.

All in all, the moves are painless and progressive for the JSBTC. During the transition, funds will see changes to account numbers and for JSBTC administration, our access methods will change slightly. Even better news is that all of our investment funds (except a small number of GIC's) have gained over 9% year to date from January 1 to September 30, 2019.



**HUMANITY
THROUGH A BUDDHIST EYE: AN EXPLORATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

• KEYNOTE SPEAKER DUNCAN RYUKAN WILLIAMS
Dr. Williams is a Soto Zen priest and Director of the Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture at the University of Southern California. He is the author of "American Sutra: A Story of Faith and Freedom in the Second World War"

• TERESA BYRNE
MÉTIS CULTURAL HISTORIC TOURS COORDINATOR, LOUIS RIEL INSTITUTE
Manitoba is the heart of the homeland of the Métis people. Teresa will share her knowledge and insight in this interactive introduction to the culture, heritage and history of the Métis people and their influence in the development of Manitoba and Canada.

• TOUR OF THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF HUMAN RIGHTS

• WORKSHOPS AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS:
DR. JEFF WILSON, REV. GRANT IKUTA, ART MIKI

• DISCOVER THE RICH TRADITION, CULTURE AND DIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA

June 12 - 14, 2020
Manitoba Buddhist Temple
39 Tecumseh Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Register through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/humanity-through-a-buddhist-eye-registration-72451810315>
For more information contact Brenda Ikuta: brenda.ikuta@gmail.com

Sponsored by LIVING DHARMA CENTRE, JODO SHINSHU BUDDHIST TEMPLES OF CANADA