



April 2012

Family Tree of the Dharma

In the three worlds of delusion which is constantly flowing and turning, it is hard to sever the bonds of attachments of affection and love. Hearing a call of Amida's Vow, do we gain spiritual liberation and enter into Nirvana.*

* three worlds: human world of desire, material and spirit



Recently, a senior couple visited my office. They showed me the names of a family tree written on several pages and asked me some words to translate from Japanese into English. The gentleman was part Japanese and his wife, Caucasian. They said they are not Buddhists. The gentleman told me that he already had spent a few years compiling his family tree and was still creating it because the members of the family were increasing. He told me he even went to Japan and met his cousins. But they did not show much interest in what he had done so far. He asked me, "Are Japanese in Japan not interested in this kind of research, to create family tree?" I said, "Well, it depends on the people." Then he asked me, "Are you interested?"

I said "I have no time and no energy to make up our family tree like you. It is endless job. I am not that patient." I can trace back two or three generations of my family and that is enough for me. Our children who were born in Canada may be interested but I do not think they are that patient to compile their family trees going back many generations.

I told them "After all, we all go back to the time of monkey! Or as you say, to the time of Adam and Eve." We laughed. I translated some words for them and they

left. After they left, I thought about the family tree of the dharma.

According to the legend, the Siddhartha Gautama, a future Buddha, abandoned his family, his wife and a new born baby, Rahula, at 29 years of age to seek enlightenment. Some people think that the Buddha did not think of his family and was completely indifferent to a family life. However, we must understand that it was a common practice and custom in India in his time that when you had an heir you were allowed to leave your family life, renounce the world and seek the Truth of Life called Dharma. The custom is also practiced in some Buddhist sects in Japan. The custom we call "shukke" means to enter the monkhood which literally translates: "To leave and abandon the household." Siddhartha withdrew from the world to seek the truth of life for six arduous years. An important thing we must remember is that he returned to the world after he discovered the dharma and shared it with others who were still struggling in the world of delusion. He abandoned the household but did not abandon the world and sentient beings in the world. We know that his son, his father, stepmother, cousins all followed the noble path he had discovered.

Because of Buddha's returning to the world we are able to enjoy the nectar of the dharma without abandoning the world. Shinran Shonin also left from secular and worldly life at the age of nine years. He went up Mt. Hiei, the center of Buddhist monastery to study Buddha dharma. After 20 years struggle with traditional religious practices, he descended and returned to the world. He took a wife, ate meat and shared his appreciation of Amida's compassion with others. For both, the

great sages, Sakyamuni and Shinran, their thoughts were extended to all living beings in the universe. Whether we go back to the time of monkeys or the time of Adam and Eve, we are all connected one another. Yes, we are one in the family tree of the dharma. Namo Amida Butsu

Yasuo Izumi, Minister
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

楽しいお寺

毎週日曜礼拝の後、当番グループによって60人、70人、時には100人以上のお参りの方々に茶菓の用意がされています。手作りのお菓子や果物などです。「楽しいお寺」の雰囲気作りを皆んなで考えています。しかし毎週いろいろな茶菓を用意するとすると、これはなかなか大変なことです。

ある方を訪問しました。腰痛でしばらくお寺参りが遠くなっておられるシニアの方です。激痛のため痛み止めを常用し、歩行器を使っておられます。話の途中、お茶とアップルパイを出して下さいました。「これと同じものをお寺の茶菓に用意させていただきました。お寺のことが気になるもので。。。」驚きました。不自由な体で手作りのアップルパイ。。。時間がかかったろうなあ、と思いました。そして何よりもお寺のことをこれほどに心配してくれる人がいる、ということに頭が下がりました。毎週、当たり前のようにしていた礼拝後の「楽しいひと時」。その裏にはこのような方がおられたのだ、と知らされました。み仏の光に照らされながら、「今日もおかげさまでした」と支えてくれている、いろいろな働きを思いながら生活したいものです。合掌 泉

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BTSA NOTES

April showers will be welcome—as long as it's rain--as BTSA prepares for one of Jodo Shinshu's three most important services of the year: Hanamatsuri. This year, we'll be observing it on the reputed date of Shayamuki's birth—April 8—when sweet rain bathed him after his birth.

Michael Hayashi sensei of the Toronto Buddhist Temple will be our guest speaker. It also will be the monthly memorial for April, with the service beginning at 2 p.m. and followed by a midday meal. Please plan to attend, along with children since Hanamatsuri traditionally has been a time to showcase them and to shower them with gifts. Izumi sensei will be conducting an infant presentation ceremony prior to the service for parents who may have signed-up for the event.

Also, remember that Hayashi sensei will be giving a public lecture the night before in the hondo at 7 p.m.

BTSA has a full board, following its annual general meeting on March 4, with the elections of Joyce Shigehiro and Jim Tsukishima to two-year terms. They join continuing members Val Boras, John Dubbelboer, Sway Nishimura, Roy Sassa, Eichi Tanaka and Trent Takeyasu. The remaining four two-year terms were filled with the re-election of Akira Ichikawa, Brenda Ikuta, Roland Ikuta and Sylvia Oishi. Thanks to retiring director Tak Okamura for his many years of board service, first at his former temple and since the inception of BTSA on the BTSA board. While no longer on the board, Tak has agreed to help out with matters related to building concerns and maintenance.

The review engagement of temple finances generally circulated at the AGM was not ready in time, but has now been received. We'll have copies available at the temple for anyone interested in looking at this. As was reported by Treasurer John Dubbelboer at the AGM, the BTSA's financial health remains strong with current assets at \$737,000, compared with \$697,000 at this time a year ago.

The AGM approved dues for 2012 and 2013 at \$100 per person. April has been designated membership drive month, encouraging all to send in their renewals.

BTSA also thanks David Major for continuing as a director on the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada board. He first agreed to fill a vacancy two years ago with the death of Tom Allen of Toronto, then was elected as a board member last year to a two-year term. He's been busy preparing for this year's AGM in Winnipeg during the last weekend of April. He'll be joined there by BTSA delegates John Dubbelboer and Roland Ikuta, BTSA Women's Federation delegates Donna Dubbelboer and Sumie Tsukishima and Izumi sensei.

Thanks to co-chairs Jan Okamura and Pat Sassa and all the volunteers who worked so industriously and untiringly preparing for and making the mein noodles on the last Saturday in March. Part of the output is designated for our spring chow mein supper on May 5.

Also in March, we enjoyed a rollicking Korean comedy for our Movie Night fare. The action film about gangsters hiding out in a Buddhist monastery made for hilarious moments. Thanks to

Roland Ikuta for his continuing membership efforts, of which Movie Night is one. He also had scheduled the third and last Buddhist education meetings, this one on meditation.

The inaugural class to review short articles met March 11 following teatime and discussed Buddhist ideas raised in the selected item, a reflection on cockroaches. Please keep abreast of plans for future sessions. The idea is to keep the session short to encourage participation.

At its first meeting since the AGM, the board on March 14:

- re-named unchanged the new executives for the new year: Akira Ichikawa, chair; Roland Ikuta, vice-chair; Brenda Ikuta, secretary; John Dubbelboer and Trent Takeyasu, co-treasurers;
- agreed to follow up on suggestions made at the AGM to have a proposed budget and to include restaurant certificates as an option for hospital visits;
- was informed by the city that it has confirmed our date and place for the annual picnic on June 17 at the John Martin Recreation centre; and,
- decided to send reminder letters to those with unfulfilled building pledges so that that budget line might be closed.

Keep in mind that records of all board meetings are available for members to peruse. They are kept in binders in the board room.

A reminder: Please make reservations for temple use with Fudge Takeda to avoid conflicting events and disappointments. Increasing demand for temple space may upset plans so as a precaution, please reserve early and also inform sensei and me if so desired. Thanks.

Akira Ichikawa

CHAIR SCHEDULE April & May 2012

Apr 01

Chair: Reiko Takeyasu
Audio: Roland Ikuta

Apr 08

Hanamatsuri & Shotsuki, 2 pm

Chair: Pat Sassa
Audio: Tak Okamura

Apr 15

Chair: Margaret Benson
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Apr 22

Chair: Kate Ainscough
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Apr 29

Chair: Roland Ikuta/kids
Audio: John Dubbelboer

May 06

Chair: Joyce Shigehiro
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

May 13

Chair: Deanna Jones
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

May 20

Chair: Roland Ikuta/kids
Audio: Sway Nishimura

May 27

Chair: Sheila Oishi
Audio: Roland Ikuta

MC designates: if you're unable to chair on your assigned date or have made other arrangements on your own, please inform Sway Nishimura, religious chairman. Thank you.

HANAMATSURI and April Monthly Memorial Service



Michael Hayashi sensei of the Toronto Buddhist Church will be the guest speaker at this year's Hanamatsuri service, one of Jodo Shinshu's three major holidays, on April 8 at 2 p.m.. It will be held in conjunction with the monthly memorial service for the month. Please note that the monthly memorial will not be held on the first Sunday of the month as usual.

BTSA also scheduled a public lecture with Hayashi sensei on April 7 p.m. in the BTSA hondo.

Izumi sensei will be conducting an infant presentation ceremony prior to the Hanamatsuri service. Those interested in having their child participate is asked to get in touch with sensei.

BUDDHIST Q & A

Sweet Tea (Amacha / 甘茶)

Why do we pour sweet tea over the baby Buddha during Hanamatsuri?

This is symbolic. The bathing of the statue of the baby Buddha is a popular ritual for Buddhists. According to legend, when the baby Buddha was born sweet water, cold and warm, of the dharma fell from heaven to wash and bathe him. By pouring sweet tea, we humbly accept the dharma. Y.I.



MOVIE NIGHT AT THE TEMPLE



HAPPY

A Documentary
by award winning
director Roko Belic

SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2012

Supper at 6pm & Movie at 7:30pm

Special BBQ on a bun & baked beans

What makes people happy? Is it money, status or your relationships? Are there things that we can do to increase our happiness? What does this have to do with Buddhism? Come and see a very interesting movie and find out. Please call Roland (403-317-0078) or email rolikuta@shaw.ca if you are planning to attend the supper. Please invite friends or relatives to what should be a thought provoking movie night.

HAPPY is a feature documentary that takes us on a journey from the swamps of Louisiana to the slums of Calcutta in a search of what really makes people happy. Combining powerful interviews with the leading scientists in happiness research and real life stories of ordinary and extraordinary people around the world, Happy uncovers the secrets behind our most treasured emotion.

THE DHARMA EXCHANGE

The dates for the next two Dharma exchange sessions have been set as **April 22nd** and **June 24th**. The first session was attended by over 15 people who participated in a lively discussion about the article "The Night of the Cockroaches". The next article, " Making the Right Choice" by Daniel Goleman will be available at the entrance to the Hondo. Please pick up a copy. The discussion will occur from 11:45 – 12:30 PM in the board room after Sunday service.

If anybody has read an interesting article that would be suitable for the Dharma exchange please forward it to Roland Ikuta (403-317-0078) or email it to Rolikuta@shaw.ca

2012 Membership Form

- Full Membership (\$100 for each member) Student Membership

Last Name: _____ First Names(s): _____

Last Name: _____ First Names(s): _____

Home Address: _____

City, Province, Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

- Check to receive The Hikari newsletter by Email only.

Please send this form and your remittance to:

Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta Treasurer
470 40th Street South
Lethbridge, AB, T1J 3Z5

*Student membership is limited to persons 18 years or older who are currently registered in a recognized educational institution. It is free of charge with a valid student ID card. Student Members are not entitled to vote at general meetings or to hold office in the BTSA and this category of membership does not include membership in the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada.

LET'S EXPAND THE CIRCLE OF THE DHARMA!

MEMBERSHIP MONTH FOR BTSA

April is membership month for the BTSA.

We would like to remind all current members to kindly pay their membership dues during the next month. The fee for 2012 will remain at \$100 per person. Please make cheques payable to the BTSA. The dues that are collected only covers a small portion of the BTSA annual operating costs. We would like to thank all members for your financial support and for all of the energy that makes our temple such a positive place.

We try to be as thorough as possible but occasionally make errors. Please inform us if your name has been omitted from or misspelled in the donation lists.

Anyone wishing his/her name not be acknowledged in print, please let us know so it won't be published. Thank you.

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

March 2012

Richard & Val Boras
John & Donna Dubbelboer
Randy Higa
Shinako (Sheila) Higa
Shirley Higa
Higs Service Ltd
Marie Hirashima
Tomi Hisaoka
Rumiko Ibuki
Toshimi & Marian Ibuki
Ray & Donna Journoud
Sadae Kanegawa
Betty Nakamura
May Nishikawa
Mac & Reyko Nishiyama
Mitsuko Oga
Frank & Kimi Ohno
Kaz & Setsuko Ohno
May Ohno
Yumiko Osaka
Jiro & Mae Sasaki
Ken & Nancy Setoguchi
Bob & Eiko Shigehihiro
Joe & Mary Shigehiro
Tom Shimosawa
Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
Tomiko Sugimoto
Tom & Tsuyako Tajiri
Kazuko Takaguchi
Robert & Judy Takaguchi
Toshiko Takeda
Brenda & Lester Tanner
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama

Total \$1,485.00

Other Donations

Marie Hirashima
Katoye Maruno
Shig & Katie Nakagawa
Cheryl L Oga
Esther Oga & David Fleming
Heidi Oishi
Lilly Oishi
Jagjit S. (Jack) Panesar
Florence Senda
Reiko Takeyasu
Mas Terakita

Total - \$2,040.00

REGULAR EVENTS

Dharma Study

10 - 10:15 am Sundays
(except first Sunday of the month, please note calendar)
Contact: Rev. Izumi at 403.382.7024

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Thursdays 7 - 8:30 pm
Contact: Katie Nakagawa 403. 327.4296 or katiinak@shaw.ca
No practice April 19 and 26

Tonari Gumi

Tuesdays 12 - 3 pm

Taiko Class

Tuesdays 7 - 8:30 pm • Youth 6:30 - 7pm
Contact: David Tanaka at 403.330.1548 or david@eyesquared.com

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club

Wednesdays 1:30 - 4 pm

Minyo Dancers will meet April 10 & 24, then for May on Mondays. Practice for Bon Odori will commence in June.

Flowers, fruit basket or a restaurant certificate will be delivered to those in hospital. If you know of someone who is in hospital for at least one week please contact Sumi & Joe Tomiyama at 403.327.3110 or sumi.tomiyama@gmail.com.

PROGRAMS

Gentle Yoga for Seniors started March 28 with a full registration. It will run six sessions with no session April 12.

"Breathing, Stretching, Moving" (Aiki Breathing Class) begins again on April 2 after a winter hiatus.

Mondays: 10:45am - 12pm

April 2, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28 • No class April 9
Multi-purpose room

This class introduces non-martial aspects of breathing; gentle stretching and movement used in beginning Aikido and associated arts such as Taiji and Qigong. It is for people interested primarily in cultivating health, relaxation and overall well-being. These methods, if performed thoughtfully and regularly, can bring balance and calm into today's busy lives. Instructor, Lincoln Chew has been a practitioner of the Far Eastern internal arts for over 40 years.

Please consider registering- especially helpful for seniors.
Contact lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com or 403.327.1668

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences

The Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta expresses heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost loved ones.

Kiyoo Chiba (93) Feb.28, 2012

Masae Nakahama (101) March 2, 2012

Yoshie Hiraga (99) March 9, 2012

Natsuko Sawada (86) March 10, 2012

Women's Federation Fundraiser

The Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Women's Federation (JSBTCWF) are selling "Thank You" cards in packages of 5 for \$6



Your support of the Women's Federation is greatly appreciated!

Contact Donna Dubbelboer

Annual BTSA Picnic Site Set

The City has informed us that BTSA has been assigned its first choice of picnic sites for June 17: the John Martin Recreation Area in Pavan Park. This is an early notice to remind members to note the date on your calendars. As usual, Izumi sensei will preside at the regular Sunday service at 10:30 a.m., after which a potluck lunch will be served. We have the site from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., so will try to have the gate open by 10 a.m. Games for the children and bingo for all, both with prizes, will be part of the Sunday outing. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the hoped-for warm June Sunday.



TOBAN UPDATE

Please help out anytime you are available
-remember you don't have to be a listed member to participate. Anyone is welcome to join – just let the Toban leader know. Toban leaders please notify Lorita of any new members.

April Toban 3
May Toban 4
June Toban 1

Thanks to **Toban 2** for all the activity in the busy month of March. Tea after service always is a time to look forward to visiting, and enjoying the company of friends in the Dharma for adults and children, alike.

Soup Kitchen

Thanks to Jan Okamura and Toban 4 for lunch preparation on March 21 at the Soup Kitchen. April 4 is the next luncheon with Toban 1 in charge (Lilly Oishi coordinating). Please feel free to volunteer if you wish

Mein-making – March 31 don't forget to register for one of two shifts

Shop and Gift Cards – Please continue to support the 2015 World Buddhist World Buddhist Women's Convention in Calgary.



New BTSA Members

BTSA is pleased to welcome several new members who have joined us over the past couple of months:

William Kikuchi, Edmonton
Ted & Chieko Sakaguchi
Brian Tajiri
Wayne & Amy Tsukishima

Welcome to the BTSA Sangha.



HANAMATSURI 2012

Sunday, April 8 • 2:00

The Dharma class has been working on a project for the past two months, and will present a short video during the Hanamatsuri service:

THINK B.I.I.G.

Life is a **B**umpy Road

Life is **I**mpermanent

Life is **I**nterdependent

Life is **G**ood!

Part of the project will also be hanging in the multipurpose room for the first two Sundays in April, and afterward will be up in the Dharma room.

There will also be a choir performance in which children are invited to join in, and a big birthday cake to enjoy.



Infant Presentation Ceremony

Please let Izumi Sensei know if you're interested in having your child participate in this ceremony before the Hanamatsuri service.



2012 Buddhist Memorial Service

Year of Death (死亡年)

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2011 | First annual memorial | 1 year from death |
| 2010 | 3rd | 2 full years from death |
| 2006 | 7th | 6 full years from death |
| 2000 | 13th | 12 full years from death |
| 1996 | 17th | 16 full years from death |
| 1988 | 25th | 24 full years from death |
| 1980 | 33rd | 32 full years from death |
| 1963 | 50th | 49 full years from death |

A memorial rite marking the death of the deceased not only calls for the adornment of the shrine and the reading of the sutra but also is a precious occasion for recalling the cherished memories of the beloved and the most of all to realize the blessings of the Light of Wisdom and Life of Compassion which embrace us all. (from Jodo Shinshu Handbook for laymen)

On the first or near the first Sunday of every month, the BTSA observes a monthly memorial service in memory of those people whose date of death (meinichi-命日) falls in that month. Please bring a Homyo of your loved one.

Schedule 光 April & May 2012

Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service 祥月法要 Please bring Homyo (Buddhist Name) of your loved one. 法名をご持参ください。

APRIL: TOBAN 3

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| 10 - 10:15am Dharma Study 10:30am Regular Service 1 | 10:45am Aiki Breathing 2 | 12 noon Tonari Gumi Taiko 6pm Youth 7pm Adult 3 | 1:30pm Karaoke 4 | 10:25am Gentle Yoga 7pm SAB Choir 5 | 6 | 7pm Michael Hayashi Sensei, Public Talk- Hondo 7 |
| 2pm Hanamatsuri & Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service Infant Presentation Ceremony (before service) 8 | 9 | 12 noon Tonari Gumi Taiko 6pm Youth 7pm Adult 10 | 1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSa board meeting 11 | 7pm SAB Choir 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 10 - 10:15am Dharma Study 10:30am Regular Service 15 | 10:45am Aiki Breathing 16 | 12 noon Tonari Gumi Taiko 6pm Youth 7pm Adult 17 | 1:30pm Karaoke 18 | 10:25am Gentle Yoga No Choir 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 10 - 10:15am Dharma Study 10:30am Regular Service 11:45am Dharma Exchange 22 | 10:45am Aiki Breathing 23 | 12 noon Tonari Gumi Taiko 6pm Youth 7pm Adult 24 | 1:30pm Karaoke 25 | 10:25am Gentle Yoga No Choir JSBTC Ministers' Meeting / AGM in Winnipeg 26 | JSBTC Ministers' Meeting / AGM in Winnipeg 27 | JSBTC Ministers' Meeting / AGM in Winnipeg 28 |
| 10:30am Regular Service 29 | 10:45am Aiki Breathing 30 | | | | | |

MAY: TOBAN 4

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 12 noon Tonari Gumi Taiko 6pm Youth 7pm Adult 1 | 2 | 10:25am Gentle Yoga 7pm SAB Choir 3 | 4 | Spring Chow Mein Supper 5 |
| 10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service 6 | 10:45am Aiki Breathing 7 | 12 noon Tonari Gumi Taiko 6pm Youth 7pm Adult 8 | 1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSa Board Meeting 9 | 10:25am Gentle Yoga 7pm SAB Choir 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 10 - 10:15am Dharma Study 10:30am Regular Service 13 | 10:45am Aiki Breathing 14 | 12 noon Tonari Gumi Taiko 6pm Youth 7pm Adult 15 | 1:30pm Karaoke 16 | 7pm SAB Choir 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 10:30am Gotan-e (Shinran Shonin's Birthday) Service 20 | 10:45am Aiki Breathing 21 | 12 noon Tonari Gumi Taiko 6pm Youth 7pm Adult 22 | 1:30pm Karaoke 23 | 7pm SAB Choir 24 | Hikari article deadline 25 | Movie Night at the Temple 6pm Supper 7:30pm Movie 26 |
| 10 - 10:15am Dharma Study 10:30am Regular Service 27 | 10:45am Aiki Breathing 28 | 12 noon Tonari Gumi Taiko 6pm Youth 7pm Adult 29 | 1:30pm Karaoke 30 | 7pm SAB Choir 31 | | |