



April 2009

Gata Gata In the midst of the world of “gata gata”, Jodo Shinshu followers are urged to hear the voice of Amida which is true, real and sincere.



Southern Alberta is known for its chinooks. Chinooks are warm and strong winds blowing over the Rocky Mountains. It blows from time to time during winter and toward spring. The snow is usually melted away in a day by the wind. Recently we had a chinook. It was an extremely strong wind. Our windows which face south west made a loud rattling and squeaking noise through the night. I woke up a couple of times during the night from these noises.

The rattling and squeaking sound reminded me of a Japanese expression, “gata gata”. Japanese often use this expression in their conversation. For example, think of a Japanese shoji, a sliding door. Especially if it is still new, a sliding door and rail do not work smoothly against each other and make a noisy and squeaky sound. Japanese say, sound is “gata gata”.

“Gata” literally means “self and other” or “I and you” implying two individuals or things. When they do not get along with

each other, the crushing or conflicting sound “gata gata” appears. Another example is when you ask someone, say a senior gentleman, about his health. You might get the response from him, “Well, honestly speaking, my health is “gata gata.” This means that mind and body do not agree with each other. You might think you are still young. Your mind says, “I feel I am still 40 years young.” But your body says, “Are you kidding? You are 75 years old. Admit it!”. Here, “gata gata” is a disagreeable sound between mind and body.

In Buddhism, it is said that our conventional thinking is characterized by all kinds of dual ideas, the idea of “two-ness”: self and other, good and bad, mind and body, like and dislike, birth and death, and so on. It is no doubt that we, ordinary people, are living in this kind of relative world. The problem is that we have a very strong ego-attachment by which we grasp and cling to the one side we love and thereby we create our world of delusion.

*Ignorance and blind passions abound,
Pervading everywhere like particles of dust.
Desire and hatred arising out of conflict
and accord*

Are like high peaks and mountain ridges.

– Shinran

The goal of Buddhism is emancipation, to turn delusion into enlightenment. In other words, the aim of Buddha Dharma is spiritual liberation from ego binding chains.

There are numerous paths for this. Jodo Shinshu Buddhism teaches us that this goal is only actualized through the working of Amida, the true reality of

oneness expressed as Namo Amida Butsu. In the midst of the world of “gata gata”, Jodo Shinshu followers are urged to hear the voice of Amida which is true, real and sincere.

In Gassho,
Yasuo Izumi, Minister of BTSA

物知り

インターネットが出回っているおかげで、人間の知識は増えたようです。それで、「物知り」が多くなりました。知識だけで、自分は分かっている、知っている、偉いのだと「勘違い」をするようになりました。「勘違い」はトラブルのもとです。丁度、熱湯にふれたら、ヤケドをする、ということインターネットだけで知ったのに似ています。実際に触れたことがないので、つまり経験というものがないので、本当の「熱さ」を知らないのです。そのような人が、往々にして、大ヤケドをするものです。人間の傲慢がそうさせるのです。「本当のところ、自分は何も知らない」、という謙虚さが求められる時代です。

「勘違い」を、仏教では「迷い」と呼んでいます。自分の勘違い、迷いを誰も教えてくれませんか、その迷いはいよいよ深くなるばかりです。人は、常に自分を知らせるもの、照らすものが必要です。教えてくれるものが必要なのです。そうしないと、迷いから、いつになっても抜け出せません。アミダ如来は、「私」の本当の姿を知らせ、照らし出し、変わらぬ「まこと」の世界へと導くものです。如来の心に遇わせて頂きましょう。合掌
いずみ

BUDDHIST TEMPLE
OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA
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PRESIDENT'S NOTEBOOK

It is an honour for me to contribute to this issue of the Hikari. These are extremely exciting times for our organization. While the construction of the building is now complete, in some ways we are just beginning to grow and strengthen this community we know as the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta. I ask for your continued enthusiastic participation and support in this endeavour.

Each of us, in our own personal way can be an ambassador of this Temple within the greater community and ensure that our doors are seen to be open and welcoming. Every activity held at this Temple can be seen as an opportunity to strengthen our bonds with old acquaintances who may not be as active as they once were as well as an opportunity to welcome newcomers, who may be seeking their own path to spiritual development and growth. We all need to refresh our thinking beyond the familiar in order to develop new programs, new activities and new ways of communicating to meet the needs of our membership. I encourage you to be outgoing in your approach to those members whom you don't already know in order to demonstrate a willingness to accept fresh faces and new ideas. I am grateful for this opportunity to be involved and sincerely look forward to working with all of you as we embark together on this exciting journey.

There continues to be an extremely high level of activity within the Temple. New gathas have been introduced into the regular Sunday services by Lorita Ichikawa and Katie Nakagawa, supported by our wonderful choir. Bringing a fresh new energy to our services, Lorita and Katie inspire and share with us some of what they learned at a recent Dharma in Music workshop at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, California.

The Fund Raising Dinner and silent auction held in March for members, friends and guests raised \$ 16,033.96. At the Annual General Meeting our fundraising committee brought forth a report that highlighted the continued generous support that has been realized to date and included news of a very significant donation by the Sakamoto family. The first Chow Mein Supper and Bazaar in the new Temple, March 28 has created a flurry of planning and preparation. The New Temple Banquet and Dedication Service is to be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada April 23 – 27th. Included are meetings of the Ministerial Association on April 23rd and the Women's Federation on the 25th. The JSBTC Annual General meeting on the 25th is open to all members, so I encourage you to attend and become involved.

There is a certain positive energy that has become evident to us within the new Temple. One can feel this energy among the volunteers who so willingly give of their time and resources as we prepare for each upcoming activity. The many committees that have been organized are all working hard to develop programs and services that will serve to retain and grow our membership. Our deepest appreciation is extended to those retiring Board Members: David Major, Sway Nishimura, Pat Sassa, Mae Sasaki, Sub Nishi and Jim Tsukishima. We have so much to be grateful for and we need to take advantage of the momentum that has been created by the formation of our new temple and look forward to exploring the enormous potential of working together to fully develop our Sangha.

In Gassho,
Hajime Harry Sugimoto

TOBAN UPDATE

The Toban system consists of five working groups of ladies and men that keep the temple running smoothly. Tasks include day-to-day maintenance and set up, cleaning, preparation of the najjin for services, refreshments and meals for meetings, services and special events. Thanks to Toban 1 who carried out the tasks in March. The last event for March is the Temple Cleaning scheduled for Tuesday, March 31 at 9am.

Thanks to all the Toban Group members and supporters who planned, prepared and worked the Chow Mein Supper/Bazaar a success! Special appreciation goes to Pat Sassa, Coordinator and the crew of task managers, Glen Tanaka, Mary Thomas, Akira Ichikawa, Harry Sugimoto, Roy Sassa, Brenda Ikuta, Jan Okamura and Donna Dubbelboer.

Toban 2 will be responsible for the month of April except for the Dedication events. Members include Judy/Robert Takaguchi, Totsy/Sway Nishimura, June/Bill Terakita, Mutsuko/Mas Fukushima, Aya/Jim Hironaka, Sharon/Bob Imahashi, Sue Kado, Spud Kitagawa, Tomiko Kobayashi Betty Nakamura, Louise Nishiyama, Noriko Oga, Amy/Sam Tashiro, Setsuko Okuma, Chiyomi/Yuse Matsuno, Joy/Gord Saruwatari, Yoshiye Shirakawa, Tomi Takeyasu, Mary Takeda, Sumi Tsukishima, Jim Tsukishima

April 12 Hanamatsuri Service and Supper: Toban 2

April 23 Minister's Luncheon:
Lilly Oishi, Coordinator

April 24 JSBTC Tea:
Donna Dubbelboer, Coordinator

April 25-26 JSBTC/Dedication:
Luncheons: Lilly Oishi, Totsy Nishimura, Jan Okamura, Coordinators

NEW TEMPLE DEDICATION EVENTS April 25 & 26

Banquet Saturday, April 25, 2009

Main Pavilion, Exhibition Grounds

5:00 PM Cash Bar/6:00 PM Dinner with music by the Herb Hicks Trio with Andrew Ichikawa
Entertainment to follow
RSVP by April 2, 2009

Reserve now with John or Donna Dubbelboer
27 Mt Blakiston Pl. West, Lethbridge, AB T1K 6M4
403.381.7643 or email: jdubbelboer@shaw.ca
Additional registration forms will also be available at the temple. There is no charge but donations will be gratefully accepted

Dedication Service Sunday, April 26, 2009

Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

9:00 AM Ochigo preparation and photos - dharma room
9:30 AM Seating for Service
9:45 AM Ochigo Procession*
10:30 AM Service with Reverend S. Makino,
Toronto Buddhist Temple
Lunch Following Service

UPCOMING CLASSES AT THE TEMPLE

NAIKAN

AN APPROACH TO SELF-REFLECTION

Lorita Ichikawa

Saturdays
May 9 - June 13
1:30 – 3:00pm

The literal translation of the Japanese word Naikan is “looking inside.” It is a structured method of reflecting on one’s life, one’s relationships with others and the impact we are having on the world around us. Using a silent journal writing approach participants will be guided through a simple yet profound way of self-reflection. Each session will include brief meditation. Please bring a notebook.

Resource: *Naikan: Gratitude, Grace, and The Japanese Art of Self-Reflection* by Gregg Kreck

GENTLE YOGA FOR SENIORS

Val Kunimoto

Mondays
May 4, 11, 25 & June 1, 8
11:00am – 12 noon

This class will allow participants to relax physically and mentally using gentle exercises while sitting in a chair, standing, lying down or using a wall for support. It will include breathing, gentle stretching, sitting meditation, and full relaxation. No previous experience is necessary. This class would be especially helpful for those with limited physical abilities.

Please wear loose, comfortable clothing, including socks or bare feet. Also, bring a small blanket, a small pillow and a yoga mat. (Some yoga mats can be provided.)

CREATIVE MOVEMENT & ART

Tasha Damiant

Fridays
May 1, 8, 22, 29 & June 5, 12
1:30 – 3:30pm

This creative arts class for children, ages: 6 – 10 or Grades 1 to 5, integrates yoga, improvised movement, art, meditation and quiet time. It is focused on helping each child reflect his/her own unique creativity. Parents may attend with their child, but this is not a requirement. The class cannot accommodate younger visitors.

Children should wear loose, comfortable, washable clothing. Some art activities are messy and may stain clothing.

There is no fee. Donations are welcome and will be used for material, supplies, and leader honorarium as needed for all programs.

If you wish to register or have any questions, please call Lorita at 403-327-1668 or e-mail at lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

All classes are open to the community and will be held at the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

BTSA FUNDRAISING UPDATE as of March 20, 2009

The BTSA now has an official status as a charitable organization. Official tax receipts can now be issued by the BTSA for any charitable donations. Any one wishing to donate to the building fund can make a one time donation or pledge their donation over the next 3-5 years. A plaque with the donors name will be included in our donor wall. The target for the fund raising committee is around \$1,000,000. The donor levels are as follows:

DIAMOND \$25,000 or greater

EMERALD \$17,500 to \$24,999

PLATINUM \$10,000 to \$17,499

GOLD \$5,000 to \$9,999

SILVER \$2,500 to \$4,999

BRONZE \$1,000 to \$2,499

(New donors indicated in bold print)

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- Kaz & Nobs Sugimoto
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- Roy & Hifumi Sato
- Toshiko & Sway Nishimura
- Makio & Reyko Nishiyama in memory of our parents Takashi & Chiaki Karaki, Kohei & Hide Nishiyama
- George Tokuda in memory of Masao & Emiko Tokuda
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- **Ken Nakama**
- **Steveston Buddhist Temple Senior's Assoc.**
- **Faith Takeda & Duncan Moodie**
- **Jane S. Raval in memory of Chikao, Kazuko & Mutsuo Kunimoto**

The BTSA greatly appreciates all contributions. To date we have raised over \$1 million in donations or pledges.

To make a contribution or pledge contact:
 Jim Tsukishima 403.327.1279
 mtsfarm@telus.net
 Roland Ikuta 403.317.0078
 Rolikuta@shaw.ca

Or send cheques to:
 Robert Takaguchi
 P.O. Box 1249, Raymond, AB T0K 2S0



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Signature _____ Date _____

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FUNDRAISING DINNER

It was most gratifying to see 275 members and guests at the Fund Raising Dinner on Feb. 23/09. The dinner was prepared by Regent Restaurant and the sushi from the Lighthouse Restaurant. We were overwhelmed by the support of the members who donated to the Silent Auction to make it a great success. The Silent Auction, the TV Raffle, the 50/50 Draw and Dinner donations amounted to a total profit of just over \$16,000.00. A big thanks to the hard working Committee. The Committee thanks all who attended. A special thank you to all the members listed below who generously donated to the Silent Auction:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Roland & Brenda Ikuta | Dorothy Tomita |
| Glen & Pam Tanaka | KB & Lila Takeda |
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A donation of a 40" Sony TV by Sonny & Kimiko Nakashima was used for the TV Raffle.

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Memorial Donation February 27 to March 20/09

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Tom & Marie Hirashima | Les Higa | Hideko Nishi |
| Frank Ohno | May Nishikawa | Tom Tajiri |
| Nob Sugimoto | Mac Ohno | Shirley Higa |
| Kaz Ohno | Tomi Hisaoka | Tosh Ibuki |
| Joe & Sumi Tomiyama | Kaz Takaguchi | K.B. Takeda |
| Kay Maruno | Toshiko Tanaka | Joe & Mary Shigehiro |
| Sonia Sitz | Shinako Higa | Randy Higa |
| Brenda Tanner | Donna Journoud | Gary Higa |
| Kathy Turnbull | Lilly Kamachi | Jean Kamimura |
| Roy & Pat Sassa | | |
| Total.....\$1205.00 | | |

2009 Buddhist Memorial Service 仏教徒の年忌法要

Year of Death (死亡年)

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2008 | First annual memorial | 1 year from death |
| 2007 | 3rd anniversary memorial | 2 full years from death |
| 2003 | 7th anniversary memorial | 6 full years from death |
| 1997 | 13th anniversary memorial | 12 full years from death |
| 1993 | 17th anniversary memorial | 16 full years from death |
| 1985 | 25th anniversary memorial | 24 full years from death |
| 1977 | 33rd anniversary memorial | 32 full years from death |
| 1960 | 50th anniversary memorial | 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.**



UPCOMING EVENTS

O CHIGO PARADE

BTSA Dedication Ceremony

Sunday, April 26, 2009

9:45 am | 9am in the Dharma room for participants



“Chigo” refers to children ages three to twelve. (“o” is an honorific prefix.) According to tradition, noble households in Japan sent their children to temples for their education. While attending, children participated in the temple festivals and ceremonies, often dressing up to represent celestial beings.

Both boys and girls wear a robe with long, wide sleeves over a hakama or loose trousers, and the ancient make-up of the nobility which consists of two black dots just above the space between the eyebrows. The costume is differentiated between boys and girls by a stiff hat for boys and a crown of the phoenix bird for girls.

The BTSA will provide an opportunity for children to participate in this ceremonial procession at its dedication ceremony to be held on April 26, 2009 at the BTSA. (Please come by 9am for preparation and photos in the dharma room.)

Those who are interested in having a child participate in the O-Chigo Parade please contact Maya Ichikawa 380.4330, Brenda Ikuta 317.0078 or Rev. Izumi 327.1260

HANAMATSURI

Sunday, April 12, 2009

Service begins at 2pm



Hanamatsuri, or ‘Flower Festival’, commemorates the birth of Siddhartha Gautama. Siddhartha became enlightened as Sakyamuni Buddha, marking the release of sentient beings from suffering.

Children and youth will participate in the offering of flowers and pouring sweet tea over a statuette of the infant Buddha. There will also be an infant presentation (Hatsumairi) in which parents formally present their child to the Buddha and members of the temple. If you have interest in your child participating, please contact Reverend Izumi.

Kids’ Activities

Children will be dismissed early from service to spend time in the dharma classroom where activities will be provided. After the meal in the common area, the children will return to the dharma room for a birthday party for Buddha, celebrating with candles and cake.



2009 April and May Schedule

4月と五月の予定表

Sunday Regular Service starts at 10:30am

*Study/Discussion group will be held English Regular Service.

APRIL

04 SAT		Dedication Meeting
05 SUN	10:30am	Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service 祥月法要
08 WED	7:00pm	BTSA Board Meeting
12 SUN	2:00pm	Buddha's Birth Day-Hanamatsuri 花祭り
18 SAT	4:00pm	Hoji (a private memorial service at temple)
19 SUN	10:30am	Regular Service
22 WED - 24 FRI		Ministers' Meeting
25 SAT		JSBTC AGM
	6:00pm	BTSA Dedication Banquet
26 SUN	9:30am	Dedication & Memorial Service
28 TUES	4:00pm	Hoji

MAY

03 SUN	10:30am	Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service 祥月法要
10 SUN	10:30am	Mother's Day Service 母の日
17 SUN	10:30am	Regular Service
24 SUN	10:30am	Shinran Shonin's Birthday Service 降誕会
31 SUN	10:30am	Regular Service

Any questions or requests?

Please contact your minister (403)-382-7024

REGULAR EVENTS

*All are welcome to join the **Study/Discussion Group** on Sundays after morning service and tea. The purpose of meeting is to deepen our understanding and appreciation of Buddha's teachings, study the Dharma and facilitate discussion. (勉強会)
Please contact Renae Barlow (renaeb@telus.net)
Rev. Izumi (403.382.7024)

Taiko Class

Tuesdays 6:30 - 8:30pm
Please contact David Tanaka
403.330.1548 or david@eyesquared.com

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Thursdays 7:00 - 8:30pm
Please contact Lorita Ichikawa 403.327.1668

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Buddha's Birthday – Hanamatsuri はなまつり HATSUMAIRI

(Infant Presentation Ceremony) はつまいり
April 12 (Sun) at 2:00p.m

There will be an infant presentation ceremony before the service. If you or your friends have infant(s), please bring him or her to the ceremony. It is a great opportunity for parents and infant to come to visit temple together.

Board of Directors

Harry Sugimoto was elected president of BTSA at the first meeting of the 2009 Board of Directors. Other executive officers are Renae Barlow, Vice President, Akira Ichikawa, Secretary, and Robert Takaguchi and Gordon Saruwatari, Treasurers. Current Board members elected at the annual general meeting for two-year terms also include Brenda Ikuta, Roland Ikuta, Jack Nagai, Tak Okamura, Nobby Sudo, Noris Taguchi, and Joe Tomiyama.

Membership fees for 2009 are now being accepted. The annual fee is \$100 per member as voted at the annual general meeting.

The Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Women's Federation have been collecting used stamps from Canada as well as other countries for a number of years. The stamps are given to the **Save the Children Fund**. In 2007, \$155 was received from the stamps collected - for every dollar raised the Federal Government contributed three dollars so \$155 grew to \$620. We also collect foreign coins for UNICEF.

Please save your stamps and coins and give them to Donna Dubbelboer or Reiko Bolick before the JSBTCWF AGM in April.

Nenju (Juzu) Repair Workshop 念珠(数珠)修理

Friday, April 25 Dharma School Class room
2:00pm to 4:00pm. Everyone Welcome!

Do you have a broken Nenju? Please bring it and learn how to repair it at the workshop.

2009 COMING EVENTS

APRIL

- 12 Hanamatsuri Service
- 25 Dedication Banquet
- 26 Dedication & Memorial Service
- 25-26 Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada AGM

MAY

- 03 Parent's Day Potluck Lunch

JUNE

- 21 Picnic and Keiro-kai

JULY

- 18 Bon Odori and Bazaar
- 19 Obon Service

OCTOBER

- 17 Chow Mein Supper/Bake Sale/Bazaar

NOVEMBER

- 13-15 Alberta Buddhist Conference
- 21-22 Mochitsuki
- 29 Noodle Making

DECEMBER

- 31 New Year's Service Bell Ringing at Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden