

# Hikari the Light



February 2011

## Winter Blues

It has been very cold for more than 10 days! Every day the temperature ranges from -15 to -20 or lower. I look up and see thick, gray and gloomy skies every day. "Again?," I mutter. It makes me kind of depressed.

When I was living in Vancouver, there were a lot of rainy days, every day, a week or ten days, raining, day after day. I often complained, "Again?" That made me depressed, made me inactive. I was not happy. I know that wherever I live, I cannot change the weather to my liking. After several days of rain, the sky finally clears, I see the sun, and then I am happy. My feelings go up and down depending on the weather conditions. Sometimes I am happy, sometimes I am unhappy, sometimes I have no complaints, sometimes I complain, sometimes I am sad and sometimes I laugh.

People might say that every day is a good day. So, don't complain! Be happy every day. To me, it is the word of enlightened people. It is the word of a sage. It is not my word. I haven't attained that stage I shouldn't complain. I decide not to complain and then I complain again.

What should I do?

Then the words of Shinran Shonin come to my mind:

*Though the light of the sun  
is veiled by clouds and mists  
of greed and desire, anger and hatred,  
Beneath the clouds and mists there is  
brightness, not dark.*

**BTSA Minister: REV. YASUO IZUMI**  
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In this metaphor, the light of the sun represents enlightenment. There are clouds and mists that disturb my enlightenment. Clouds and mists are our fundamental ignorance which we are not able to sever. We find ourselves really bonbu, ordinary beings of blind passions. But in the hearts and minds of those who entrust themselves to the working of the sun there is brightness, not darkness. In other words, Amida's light of compassion coming out of enlightenment penetrates the depth of our ignorance to reach our hearts and minds and becomes our "shinjin", entrusting heart and mind. Although we are not able to see enlightenment we have no doubt that enlightenment is moving, embracing with its light, the light of Amida's compassion, to put our hearts and minds at ease. Shinran Shonin is saying, "There is no doubt that beyond the clouds the sun shines, whether we are happy or not, whether we complain or not."

He encourages me by saying that "Because of your deep fundamental ignorance, Amida's light of compassion is always shining on you, protecting you and embracing you." When I hear his words and meet Amida's light of compassion I'll be at ease. I find a place, a spiritual place, to return to in the midst of the ups and downs of my life.

Thus the moment we are aware of Amida's light of compassion that is working beyond our ego-self, the darkness of doubt is already broken through. We know that the light of compassion grasps us, illuminates and protects us always no matter what our feelings are.

Jodo Shinshu encourages us to examine our self, ego-mind, the source of dualistic idea. It encourages us to be aware of our true nature as bonbu, imperfect beings, and at the same time to appreciate the working of Amida - Truth of Oneness that is embracing such beings. For the sake of bonbu Amida's light of compassion is always and constantly working, leading us to enlightenment. Amida and we never separate. We do not need to pretend to be wise, to pretend being a sage or a good person. By encountering

Amida's light of compassion we can be truly human and relax with no pretence.

Namo Amida Buddha,  
Yasuo Izumi, Minister  
BTSA

### 「み教えを日々の生活の中に」

先日、日曜礼拝の後、当番グループの集まりが、会議室でありました。少し遅れて出席した私は、会議室が所狭しと、参加者で一杯になっているのに驚きました。若い参加者も多く、積極的に、自分たちの意見を述べています。当番グループは、男性、女性が交代でトイレ、社交室、をはじめ、台所、本堂、お内陣の掃除をしてくれています。その他、礼拝中のマイク、CD、スクリーンの設定、礼拝後の社交室での茶菓の用意、また、お葬式、法事等がある時はその準備と、お寺の維持、運営に大変忙しく働いています。お寺のために働く、ということのみ教えを大切にしていこうということにつながります。自分中心の生活から仏様中心の生活になっていくということでしょう。まことに尊いことであるに違いありません。私たちの先輩方は、お寺のために何かさせていただく、ということ誇りとしておられました。今、若い参加者達も、そのあとをついて行こうとしているようです。うれしいことです。

新しいお寺の落慶法要は2009年の4月に勤められました。もうすぐ丸2年になります。いよいよ聞法にいそしみ、仏様のお慈悲の心をいただき、その喜びを日々の生活に生かしていきたいものがあります。

合掌 泉康雄

# BTSA NOTES

## Notice of the BTSA 2011 Annual General Meeting

BTSA by-laws stipulate at least 15 days written notice shall be given to the Members prior to the date of the annual general meeting. Please consider this as official notification to all members that the BTSA AGM will be held March 6, 2011, following the monthly memorial service on that date. Whether members receive their Hikari through email or the post, a written notice also will be sent in compliance with the current by-law.  
- Thanks from the BTSA Board

Our annual general meeting comes up in a month's time, with elections to the board being the major agenda item. There also are two housekeeping amendments, approved by the board, which members will be asked to approve. They have to do with the notification of the general or special meetings.

The 2009 AGM decided that the current board members elected at that meeting would serve for two years, which means the terms of all 12 board members expire this year. Several current board members have indicated they will not stand for re-election, while some have agreed to let their names be nominated. All members are encouraged to offer their names for nomination and are asked to let the executive know in advance of their interest in doing so. Much of the initial, hard work of establishing the temple has been completed and we look forward to others taking responsibility in the governance of the temple. **Please see a related nomination item outlining the principles governing BTSA's objectives.**

The two amendments, the contents of which will be described in the official AGM notification letter to all members, are designed to facilitate and save postal costs by notification of general and special meetings via the Hikari newsletter either by email or post. Those without email will receive notification in their mailed Hikari. Please attend the AGM to express your views concerning all aspects of the temple's governance and operations.

BTSA began 2011 with a New Year's service, followed a week later with a combined Ho-onko and monthly memorial service where attendance was reduced by inclement weather. This was followed by a delicious New Year's supper. Thanks to Toban 3 for a lovely meal of chow mein and sweet and sour ribs, topped by tuna (maguro) sashimi, an unexpected and scrumptious new year's treat.

**On several occasions recently, various members have reported that outside doors to the temple have not been firmly closed. We've been fortunate these oversights have not led to worse situations. For whatever reason, all five doors to the temple do not automatically close snugly. Those leaving the temple last, please insure all the lights are off and check all doors by tugging on them to insure they are locked.**

The food hamper in the multipurpose room is filling up, and BTSA thanks all its members who have contributed thus far.

We welcome continued donations through February, then will give them to the Lethbridge Interfaith Food Bank with a matching BTSA cheque approximately equal to the value of the donated goods,

An early reminder that the Alberta Buddhist Conference has been set for Oct. 28, 29 and 30 at our temple. Committee members will be meeting to plan details of the event. Those interested in participating in the planning, please consider serving on the committee. Let Akira or other ABC committee members know of your interest.

At its January meeting, the temple board:

- was asked to encourage interested members to offer their names for nomination to the board;
- approved an housekeeping amendment to the by-laws to be presented to the AGM for approval. The proposed amendment is mentioned above and will be explained in detail in the AGM notice which will be mailed to all members;
- approved the sale of the temple piano in the multipurpose room to Peter Portlock who is executive director of the Lethbridge Family Services;
- confirmed that the executive committee has authority, as noted in temple policy, to determine the acceptable rental and use of the hondo; and
- heard from Lindy Rollingson a request to consider the Nikka Yuko Gardens as a site for future Bon Odori celebrations. The board decided to ask the Gardens to present a proposal that would allow comparison with the current Galt Gardens venue.

These and other items are recorded in board minutes on file in the board room at the temple and are open to all members for puruse.

Akira Ichikawa



*Photos of the New Year's meal courtesy of John Dubbelboer.*

# BTSA WANTS YOU

We have an opening on our Board of Directors and we would like you to consider being nominated for a position. Elections to the board will be held at the annual general meeting on March 6, following the Sunday service that day.

During the past four years, a core of board members have worked hard to get a building in place and operating. We are now ready to move onto the next phase of our evolution.

The next board of directors will be taking on the challenge of sustaining and growing our temple. We need new and fresh ideas. That's where you come in!

The next phase is an exciting one as the temple grows and nurtures its young people and attracts new members.

Your skills and abilities will help all of us achieve this goal. Your commitment is to attend a monthly board meeting and help out with committees as required. Most meetings are only about two hours and you will be helping with steering the organization towards its mission and vision.

As a reminder, the vision of the BTSA is dedicated to being an open Jodo Shinshu Sangha organization that appreciates, promotes, preserves and practices the Buddha Dharma teaching.

Further, the mission of BTSA is to gratefully promote and practice Buddha Dharma teaching through: communication, community, tradition, education, resource development. A response by the BTSA must always involve the following key factors: (1) ensure that our motivation is a sense of gratitude and compassion; (2) take into account the widest possible perspective; (3) be vigilant in ensuring that we remain honest, self-aware, unbiased and trustworthy; the danger other wise is that we may fall victim to self-delusion; (4) in the face of any real ethical challenge, respond in a spirit of humility; (5) ensure our interaction with the community by promoting dedication, commitment and involvement; and (6) strive to keep in mind the primary goal of the wellbeing of humanity as a whole and the planet we inhabit.

We welcome and encourage your nomination for the important foregoing purposes and hope you will agree to allow your name to be nominated.

# How To Get Your Chow Mein Supper Tickets

This article describes how we will distribute the tickets for the chow mein supper to be held on May 14.

Please think about how many tickets you would like to sell and then let me (David Major) know.

The distribution list will be finalized and tickets distributed at the mein-making day.

This notice is your first call for ticket requests. A sign-up list will be available on the bulletin boards at the temple. An email will also be sent out around the time of the February Hikari alerting everyone. The leaders of Toban 1 (Lil Oishi) and Toban 4 (Jan Okamura) will continue to distribute the tickets to their tobans so if you are in Toban 1 or 4 please contact Lil or Jan.

For everyone in Tobans 2 and 3, please let me know how many tickets you would like to have by putting your name and ticket request on the sign-up sheets or by contacting me.

This is a first-come, first serve distribution so don't delay putting in your order.

Tickets will be distributed at the mein-making sessions on March 10th and 12th.

Please note that everyone (members & volunteers) needs to purchase their supper tickets before the Chow Mein Supper day. There will not be any tickets set aside for sale on the day of the chow mein supper.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

David Major  
Tel: 403.328.4957 • Fax: 403.327.9610 • Email: rojam@telus.net

## CHAIR SCHEDULE February & March 2011

**Feb 06 SHOTSUKI**  
Chair: Mas Terakita  
Audio: Lorita Ichikawa

**Feb 13 NIRVANA DAY**  
Chair: Mac Nishiyama  
Audio: Roland Ikuta

**Feb 20 REGULAR**  
Chair: Akira Ichikawa  
Audio: Lorita Ichikawa

**Feb 27 REGULAR**  
Chair: Robert Takaguchi  
Audio: Roland Ikuta

**Mar 06 SHOTSUKI**  
Chair: Jack Nagai  
Audio: Robert Takaguchi

**Mar 13 REGULAR**  
Chair: Roland Ikuta  
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

**Mar 20 O-HIGAN**  
Chair: Pat Sassa  
Audio: Roy Sassa

**Mar 27 REGULAR**  
Chair: Sway Nishimura  
Audio: Tak Okamura



# BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

470 - 40th Street South, Lethbridge, AB T1J 3Z5 | 403.327.1260 | www.thebtsa.com

## 2011 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

### Notes

\*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 B.T.S.A. 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!

### HO-ONKO 2011 Donations

Rita & John M Aoki  
 John & Donna Dubbelboer  
 Judy Fukushima  
 Shirley Higa  
 Hideo & June Hinatsu  
 Janet Hinatsu  
 Neil Hinatsu  
 Marie Y Hirashima  
 Tomi Hisaoka  
 Rumiko Ibuki  
 Toshimi & Marian Ibuki  
 Akira & Lorita Ichikawa  
 Ayako Imahashi  
 S. Sue Kado  
 Sadae Kanegawa

Irene Karia  
 Hiroshi Kitagawa  
 Takeshi & Sue Koyata  
 Kay K. Matsuda  
 May S. Matsumiya  
 Kinuko Matsuno  
 Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno  
 Gary E & Beverly S McIlroy  
 Jim & Joan Nakagawa  
 Teiji Nakamura  
 May Nishikawa  
 Sway & Toshiko Nishimura  
 Mac & Reyko Nishiyama  
 Noriko Oga  
 Takumi & Mitsuko Oga  
 Frank & Kimi Ohno  
 Kaz & Setsuko Ohno  
 Ken Ohno

Arlene Oishi  
 Hideko Oishi  
 Lilly Oishi  
 Sheila Oishi  
 Tak & Jan Okamura  
 Setsuko Okuma  
 Yumiko Osaka  
 Roy & Pat Sassa  
 Bob & Eiko Shigehiro  
 Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro  
 Takaaki & Hajime Shigemi  
 Toshino Shigemi  
 Yoshiye Shirakawa  
 Tomiko Shono  
 Nobby & Michiko Sudo  
 Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto  
 Tomiko Sugimoto  
 Noris & Sachiko Taguchi

Kazuko Takaguchi  
 Robert & Judy Takaguchi  
 Fuji Takeda  
 Toshiko Takeda  
 Reiko Takeyasu  
 Tomiko Takeyasu  
 Bob & Shirley Taniguchi  
 Sam & Betty Taniguchi  
 Joe & Jean Tatebe  
 Mas Terakita  
 Akira Terashima  
 George Tokuda  
 Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita  
 Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama

Kimiye Tsuji,  
 Tak & Yoko Tsujita  
 Jim Tsukishima  
 Keiko Kay Tsukishima  
 Sumie Tsukishima  
**Total - \$4,250.00**

### Shotsuki Hoyo

December 2010  
 (This list was omitted from the January Hikari. Apologies for the oversight.)

Marie Y Hirashima  
 Gene Horii  
 Terry Horii  
 Violet Horii  
 Akira & Lorita Ichikawa  
 Duane & June Kenemy  
 Gary E & Beverly S McIlroy  
 Sway & Toshiko Nishimura  
 Mac & Reyko Nishiyama  
 May Ohno  
 Hisae Price  
 Darcee Richardson  
 Florence Senda  
 Eichi & Betty Tanaka  
 Toshiko Tanaka  
 Bill & June Terakita  
 Mas Terakita

**Total - \$630.00**

We apologize for overlooking the following memorial donation in the December list published in the January Hikari:

Yosh and Lois Hattori

### Memorial Donations

January 2011

Etheline Blind  
 Tomi Hisaoka  
 Molly H. Ito  
 Irene Karia  
 T. Kawamoto  
 Aiko Mori  
 Jim & Joan Nakagawa  
 Shig & Katie Nakagawa  
 Hideko Nishi  
 Takumi & Mitsuko Oga  
 Hideko Oishi  
 Tak & Jan Okamura  
 Kikue Osaka  
 Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto  
 Sam & Betty Taniguchi  
 George Tokuda

**Total - \$1,130.00**

### Shotsuki Hoyo

January 2011

Judy Fukushima  
 Shirley Higa  
 Marie Y. Hirashima  
 Ayako Imahashi  
 S. Sue Kado  
 Hiroshi Kitagawa  
 May Nishikawa  
 Sway & Toshiko Nishimura  
 Takumi & Mitsuko Oga  
 Lilly Oishi  
 Bob & Eiko Shigehiro  
 Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro  
 Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto  
 Shizue & Dorothy Tomita  
 Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama

**Total - \$310.00**

# MOVIE NIGHT at the temple

## Hachi – A dog's tale

Rated PG – A movie for the whole family

**Friday, February 11 2011 • 7:00 PM**

Snacks after the movie (No supper this time)

*Based on one of the most heartwarming and treasured true stories. Richard Gere stars as Professor Parker Wilson who discovers a lost Akita puppy on his way home from work. Despite initial objections from his wife Hachi endears himself into the Wilson family and grows to be Parker's loyal companion. As their bond grows deeper, a beautiful friendship unfolds embodying the true spirit of family and loyalty, while inspiring the hearts of an entire town.*

## TOBAN UPDATE

### Toban Schedule 2011

February	Toban 4
March	Toban 1
April	Toban 2

**Toban 2** coordinated the Soup Kitchen in January, serving 125 plates. Thanks to leader Sue Kado and team members Eichi & Betty Tanaka, Sway Nishimura, Hisae Price, John Dubbelboer, Sumie Tsukishima, Jim Tsukishima, Rev & Mrs. Izumi, Betty Nakamura and Robert & Judy Takaguchi.

Our appreciation for all their dedicated work is extended to Judy Takaguchi and Sue Kado who stepped down as Toban leaders after serving for over two years. We will miss them in that capacity, but they will continue participation in Toban 2. Judy is currently Chow Mein Supper Chair and continues in that role.

It is our hope that a leader or leadership group will volunteer to coordinate Toban 2 activities. Please contact Lorita if you would be willing to help with coordination, however much or little you are able.

**Toban 3** prepared a delicious chow mein supper with ribs and sashimi for the Hoonko/Shotsuki/New Year's event. They have also planned to work the February 2 Soup Kitchen.

### Soup Kitchen Schedule

Mar 24	Toban 4
May 23	Toban 1

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Condolences

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

**Mrs. Shigemi Nagata (93) Jan 13, 2011**

### Volunteers Needed

The Lethbridge Montessori School on Forestry Ave. (former South Lethbridge temple) will be installing a playground for students one weekend in March. Please contact Maya Ichikawa if you can help out: scratchykawa@gmail.com or 403.380.4330

### Onenju (Ojuzu) For Sale

New Onenju from Japan are available. (\$15 for male onenju. \$18 and \$20 for female onenju) Excellent gifts for your children and grandchildren. **The scrolls of Amida Buddha are also available.**

### Flowers are delivered to those in hospital.

Please contact Kay Tsukishima, 403.327.9786 or Kaz Takaguchi, 403.328.3190 if you are aware of a BTSA member who has been hospitalized for a week or more.

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Japanese Conversational Language Class

Instructor: Rev. Izumi

Will tentatively resume in late February or early March.

Contact: Denise Takao 403.381.1187 or detakao@telus.net

### Chanting (Shoshin-ge) and Study/Discussion Group

Sundays (except first Sunday of the month) 9:40am

Everyone welcome. The purpose of meeting is to deepen understanding and appreciation of Jodo Shinshu revealed by Shinran Shonin. Join morning chanting anytime. Each word is explained by your minister. Contact: Renae Barlow (renaeb@telus.net) or Rev. Izumi 403.382.7024

### Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir Thursdays 7 - 8:30pm

Contact: Katie Nakagawa 403.327.4296 or katiinak@shaw.ca

### Tonari Gumi Tuesdays 12 - 3pm

### Taiko Class Tuesdays 7 - 8:30pm

Contact: David Tanaka 403.330.1548 or david@eyesquared.com

### The Lethbridge Karaoke Club

Wednesdays 1:30 - 4pm

All interested are welcome to join or just listen and enjoy

### Minyo (Folk Dance)

2nd and 4th Wednesday, 6:30 - 8pm

Contact: Aya Hironaka 403.752.4065

## PROGRAMS

Contact Lorita at 403.327.1668 or lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

### Aiki Breathing Class

Mondays 10:45am - 12pm

runs to March 21, 2011 (No session Feb 21)

### Gentle Yoga For Seniors

Tuesdays 10:30 - 11:30am

runs to March 22, 2011 (No class February 22)

# February & March 2011 Schedule

**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。

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
FEBRUARY			10:30am Gentle Yoga 12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke	7pm SAB Choir		
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
	10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service	10:45am Aiki Breathing class	10:30am Gentle Yoga 12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke 6:30pm Minyo Dance 7pm BTSa Board Meeting	7pm SAB Choir	7pm Movie Night at the Temple "Hachi - A Dog's Tale"	
	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Nirvana Day Service	10:45am Aiki Breathing class	10:30am Gentle Yoga 12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke	7pm SAB Choir		
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	
9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service	No Aiki class	No Yoga class 12 noon Tonari Gum 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke 6:30pm Minyo Dance	7pm SAB Choir			
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	
9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service	10:45am Aiki Breathing class						
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>						

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MARCH			10:30am Gentle Yoga 12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko		7pm SAB Choir		
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
	10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service	10:45am Aiki Breathing class	10:30am Gentle Yoga 12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSa Board Meeting	Mein-making 7pm SAB Choir		Mein-making
	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service	10:45am Aiki Breathing class	10:30am Gentle Yoga 12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke	7pm SAB Choir		
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	
9:40am Chanting 10:30am O-Higan (Equinox) Service	10:45am Aiki Breathing class	10:30am Gentle Yoga 12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke	7pm SAB Choir			
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	
9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service		12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke	7pm SAB Choir			
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			