



Feb 2012

Appearance beyond human eyes

As you all notice when you come in the Hondo there is an offertory box called o-saisen-bako. The other day I saw a mother and her child standing beside the o-saisen-bako. The child wanted to put some money in it. The mother gave a coin to her child. The child put the coin in the o-saisen-bako. The child seemed to be very happy and contented. Then the mother and child quietly put their hands together in gassho. This simple act shows the spirit of dana, giving and offering before the Buddha. The mother must have taught her child the simple act in appreciation before the Buddha. It was a beautiful scene.

This reminded me of one small event which happened many years ago. One of our children, Hugh, was still three years old then. One Sunday, he asked me for a coin for the o-saisen bako before Dharma School started. I gave him a dime. He did not take it but asked me for a nickel instead. I could not understand why he wanted the nickel instead of the dime. When I gave him the nickel, he looked at it and then happily dropped it in the o-saisen-bako.

I understood why he took the nickel. It was because the nickel is much bigger than a dime. It was understandable that a three-year old child could not see how much the dime was worth. My son picked the nickel just because the nickel was bigger than the dime. In his eyes, the appearance was more important than its content, its true value. His judgment was according to its appearance and not according to its content.

It was understandable. Even we adult often see and judge others and other things around us merely by their appearances.

In Buddhism we talk about human eyes or naked eyes and Buddha's eyes or wisdom eyes. The human eyes see the appearance of things only superficially and judge, saying good or bad, pure or impure, beautiful or ugly, expensive or cheap. We often fail to see the contents or true value in appearances. On the other hand, Buddha's eyes can see the contents or true value in or behind the appearances clearly as they are.

Our otera, Buddhist temple, was built almost exactly three years ago. The first Hoonko service at the new temple was held on January 25, 2009. It was the first service at our new temple. Three years later, we are sitting in the same temple Hondo. I am sure you all appreciate the new temple. You all appreciate its appearance, its structure which is very beautiful. We can see it.

I think, however, there is much more value inside the temple than mere appearance. Through Buddha's eyes I can clearly see the dedication of so many members and non-members when we built the temple. We received lots of help and support when we built the temple. I can see now the help and support in the beautiful appearance of the temple. I can see their monetary contribution, their labour, their time, their vision here inside of the temple, beyond its appearance. We all wanted the dharma to spread. We all wanted to share Buddha's teaching with others. I can see their spirit of dana, giving and offering in the building. It is, indeed, not easy to truly see things as they are clearly and correctly only by human eyes, naked eyes.

Through Buddha's eyes, I can now gradually see invisible connections behind the appearances. And I appreciate it.

Buddha-dharma gives us an eye to see something beyond the tangible and visible, something beyond form. Amida's light of wisdom and compassion helps us to see the true value, true contents inside the beautiful appearance of our temple. With deep gratitude and joy we say Namo Amida Butsu.

In Gassho,
Yasuo Izumi, Minister of BTSA

「丸三年」

古い五ヶ寺が一緒になり、新しいお寺が南アルバータに建てられてちょうど丸三年になります。早いものです。お参りされる方々を見ますと、日系人でない方や、子供さんも以前より増えました。み教えを学び、大切にしたいという方が増えているということは、まことにうれしいことです。外から眺めるお寺もなかなか立派です。いよいよお寺らしくなってきました。それは、外から手を加えたというより、むしろ内側から、み教えの力と、そのみ教えを「慶(よろこ)び、尊ぶ」皆の力が、一つになってお寺らしくなってきたと言ってよいでしょう。

思えば、40年ほど前にカナダに着任した頃、ある一世のお年寄りが「二十年もしたら仏教はカナダから消えるだろうから、まあ、ボツボツやって下さい」といわれ、がっかりしたことがありました。もう、その方もなくなりましたが、今の仏教会の様子を目の当たりにされたら、きっと驚かれるに違いないと思います。益々、聴聞に心がけ、このみ教えを次の時代へと伝えていこうではありませんか。合掌 泉

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BTSA NOTES

Notice of the BTSA 2012 Annual General Meeting – Please regard this as official notification that the 2012 AGM will be held March 4, 2011, following the monthly memorial service for that month. The BTSA by-law requiring at least 15 days written notice prior to the date of the annual general meeting was amended at the 2011 AGM allowing official notification of an AGM by an announcement in the Hikari.

We look forward to members participating in the annual general meeting on March 4. As in the past, elections to the board will be a major item. Elections are necessary to fill six board positions with that number completing their two-year terms. A seventh person will have to be elected to bring the total to 12. Currently, five members elected last year will continue until the 2013 AGM.

The staggering of six positions was approved at the 2009 AGM. Several current board members have indicated they will not stand for re-election. All BTSA members are eligible and are encouraged to offer their names for nomination, either by letting the executive know in advance or allowing their names to be nominated at the AGM.

Since the amalgamation in 2006 and the dedication of the new temple in 2009, many of the challenging chores and demands have been met. Most temple duties have been regularized but they still require leaders to be executed smoothly. Minimally, the board meets monthly with a recess during August; we're asking potential board members to devote two hours each month for meetings. Your energy, support and a sense of responsibility are vital to the temple and most welcomed.

Our food donation box is slowly filling up with non-perishables that will eventually be given to the Lethbridge Food Bank this year. Members still have time to contribute until the end of February, at which time we will estimate the monetary value of the donations and match it with a cheque from BTSA. Please give us a hand in this community involvement effort.

The first month of the year always brings with it recharged energy and ideas fuelled by a sense of renewal. The year ended on Dec. 31 with a large turnout at the Joya-no-Kane (bell ringing ceremony) co-sponsored by the temple and the Nikka Yuko Gardens. The sudden change in the weather didn't deter hardly would-be bell-ringers to join Izumi sensei at the bonsho (Garden bell) to strike it 108 times. Sensei led a New Year's service the following Sunday with more than 30 attendees.

A huge turnout for Ho-onko, coupled with the monthly memorial for January, was followed by the New Year's party for which Toban Four prepared a generous and delicious

supper. The fare of chow mein and sweet and sour ribs was enhanced by plenty of sashimi (tuna and sockeye salmon) and libations to toast the new year. All this was followed by a boisterous bingo session where many remained to enjoy the socializing. Thanks to everyone for their generosity, assistance and ongoing support.

As well look forward to this year, we invite anyone interested in serving as emcee or looking after the sound system during Sunday services to let us know of your interest. It's always nice to involve as many members as possible to fulfill these vital roles. With many people helping out, the responsibility is shared and the frequency of serving can be reduced.

The board at its January meeting approved a revised set of guidelines for the rental of various portions of the temple. The guidelines have been inserted in the Room Reservation binder in the front foyer. They also have been posted on the BTSA website along with a number of other important documents. They can be accessed by going to the homepage and clicking on the "Temple" page in the menu. Please note too that the website design has been changed, thanks to our webmaster Kristie Masuda. We hope everyone finds it attractive and easy to get around.

Akira Ichikawa

CHAIR SCHEDULE February 2012

Feb 05 Shotsuki

Chair: John Dubbelboer
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Feb 12

Chair: Brenda Ikuta
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Feb 19

Chair: Mas Terakita
Audio: Lorita Ichikawa

Feb 26

Chair: Robert Takaguchi
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.



Toban 2 with Sumie Tsukishima at the helm prepared and served lunch Jan. 24 at the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen.

Front, from left, Tom and Mitsuko Shigehiro, June Terakita, Sumie. Second row, from left, Totsy Nishimura, Johnny Kamitomo, Sue Kado, Mary Shigehiro and Jim Tsukishima. Back row, from left, Joe Shigehiro, Robert Takaguchi, Sway Nishimura, John Dubbelboer and Judy Takaguchi. More than 80 patrons had soup and sandwiches.



Ho-onko on Jan. 15, followed by the New Year's Party brought together nearly 150 persons despite cold weather. The congregation is singing In Praise of Shinran (Ho-onko No Uta) during the service which was combined with the monthly memorial for January. In the lower photo, members raise glasses to toast and welcome 2012 at the New Year's party that followed the service.

TOBAN UPDATE

Please help out anytime you are available but especially during your Toban month.

- Feb Toban 1**
- March Toban 2**
- April Toban 3**
- May Toban 4**

Thanks to **Toban 2** for the terrific supper celebrating Hoonko and the New Year as well all of the regular Toban duties in January.

SOUP KITCHEN

Next lunch preparation at the Soup Kitchen is Wednesday February 22 with **Toban 3** (Pat Sassa coordinating). Please feel free to volunteer if you wish.

Toban Leaders Meeting will be in the Board Room on Sunday February 5 after the service. Please note that all leaders groups or assistants should attend and any Toban member is welcome to participate. The purpose of the meeting is to do an annual update and discuss any items of a general concern that have come up over the past year. We will also be discussing our participation in the World Buddhist Women's Convention in 2015.



Year-end Bell-Ringing ceremony (Joya-No-Kane) on Dec. 31, 2011 drew about 60 persons. The event, co-sponsored by BTSa and the Nikka Yuko Gardens, included a warm-up social in the Garden reception-store centre. Here, a visitor does oshoko while another prepares to strike the bonscho (bell) in the tower.

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

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 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!

Ho-onko Donations 2012

Roy Asato
 Eietsu Chiba
 Kiyoo Chiba
 John & Donna Dubbelboer
 Judy Fukushima
 Terry Hanna & Sylvia Oishi
 Shinako (Sheila) Higa
 Shirley Higa
 Janet Hinatsu
 Yoshie Hiraga
 Marie Y Hirashima
 Tomi Hisaoka
 Toshimi & Marian Ibuki
 Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
 Molly Ito
 Sue Kado
 Tom & Lily Kaga
 John & Alice Kanashiro
 Sadae Kanegawa
 Fujiye Kariatsumari
 Hiroshi Kitagawa
 Takeshi & Sue Koyata

Dave Kunimoto
 Eileen Kunimoto
 Hisaye Kunimoto
 David Major & Laverne Hamabata
 Katoye Maruno
 Kay K. Matsuda
 May S. Matsumiya
 Kinuko Matsuno
 Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
 Gary & Beverly McIlroy
 Jack & Rie Nagai
 William T. & Setsuko Nagai
 Jim Nakagawa
 Shig & Katie Nakagawa
 Teiji Nakamura
 Hideko Nishi
 May Nishikawa
 Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
 Mitsuko Oga
 Frank & Kimi Ohno
 Kaz & Setsuko Ohno
 Ken Ohno
 May Ohno

Randy Ohno
 Arlene Oishi & Jeff Coffman
 Heidi Oishi
 Lilly Oishi
 Sheila Oishi
 Tak & Jan Okamura
 Yumiko Osaka
 Roy & Pat Sassa
 Florence Senda
 Bob & Eiko Shigehiro
 Joe & Mary Shigehiro
 Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
 Toshino Shigemi
 Nobuko & Mary Shono
 Tomiko Shono
 Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
 Tomiko Sugimoto
 Miyo Sunada
 Norris & Sachiko Taguchi
 Tom & Tsuyako Tajiri
 Kazuko Takaguchi
 Robert & Judy Takaguchi
 Fugji Takeda
 Toshiko Takeda
 Reiko Takeyasu
 Glen & Pam Tanaka
 Toshiko Tanaka
 Bob & Shirley Taniguchi
 Sam & Betty Taniguchi
 Jean Tatebe
 Mas Terakita
 George Tokuda
 Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita
 Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
 Tak & Yoko Tsujita
 Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima
 Jim Tsukishima
 Kay Tsukishima

Total \$5,955.00

Other Donations

Joyce Adachi
 Terry Hanna & Sylvia Oishi
 Yoshie Hiraga
 Robert Hironaka
 Yoshiko Imahashi
 John & Alice Kanashiro
 Carolyn & Ken MacDonald
 Montreal Buddhist Church
 Roy & Minnie Nakatsuru
 Hideo & Jennifer Nishida
 Joyce Oishi
 Jack Panesar
 Gordon & Joy Saruwatari
 Florence Senda
 Sonia Sitz
 Masaye Tanaka

Total - \$1,305

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

January 2012

Judy Fukushima
 Shirley Higa
 Marie Y Hirashima
 Tomi Hisaoka
 Kenneth Ito
 Molly Ito
 Roy & Joyce Ito
 Sue Kado
 Hiroshi Kitagawa
 John & Jean Miyanaga
 Mark & Tamara Miyanaga
 Robert & Toshi Miyanaga
 Thomas & Mariko Mura
 Harry & Beverly Nagata
 Shig & Katie Nakagawa
 Tosh Nakahama
 Hideko Nishi
 May Nishikawa
 Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
 Mac & Reyko Nishiyama
 Mitsuko Oga
 May Ohno
 Arlene Oishi & Jeff Coffman
 Lilly Oishi
 Bob & Eiko Shigehiro
 Joe & Mary Shigehiro
 Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
 Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
 Miyo Sunada
 Tom & Tsuyako Tajiri
 Jim & Irene Tanaka
 Toshiko Tanaka
 Jean Tatebe
 Raymond & Sue Thibodeau
 Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
 Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima

Total \$3,205.00

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.

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 at 403.327.4296 or katiinak@shaw.ca

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
All interested are welcome to join or just listen and enjoy.

Flowers or fruit basket 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 with Val Kunimoto
Winter session dates are February 2 - March 22.
There are a couple of spots open.

For further information on **Toban, Special Events or Programs**,
Contact: Lorita at 403 327 1668 or lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Mr. Seiji Kimura (75) Jan. 10, 2012

World Buddhist Women's Convention Totsy Nishimura will be the BTSA contact to assist locally with convention activities. Donna Dubbelboer, BTSA Women's Federation Representative and Lorita Ichikawa, are on the World Conference Committee of which Susan Huntley, Calgary Buddhist Temple, is chair.

Shop and Gift Cards - The Women's Federation fundraiser has earned over \$10,000 with the BTSA contributing more than \$3,000. All proceeds, a percentage of the card face value, go towards the 2015 World Buddhist World Buddhist Women's Convention in Calgary. Gift cards make great birthday gifts and are handy for everyday personal (or temple) groceries.

BUDDHIST Q & A

Why do we offer flowers to Amida Buddha?

We offer flowers because it symbolizes our life of changing and impermanency. It teaches us that although these flowers are fresh and sweetly blooming in the beginning they soon fade away. Our bodies, like these flowers, will pass away. Yet the brightness and sacredness of infinite life is fully shining here and now and embracing us all the time. (Y.I.)

Tentative Obon Schedule for 2012

The Obon season is still a half-year away, but temple members and others often want forewarning on dates to prepare for family reunions, summer visits and travels back to southern Alberta. Izumi sensei has released the following tentative schedule, but please keep posted and check subsequent issues of Hikari to insure the dates remain the same.

- July 1 11:00am** Brooks Cemetery visitation (ohaka mairi) and Obon, Service at Heritage Inn
July 8 10:00am Magrath Cemetery visitation
11:00am Temple Hill Cemetery visitation
July 14 7:00pm Bon Odori - Galt Gardens, Lethbridge
July 15 1:00pm Mountain View Cemetery visitation
2:30pm BTSA Obon Service
July 22 1:00pm Taber Cemetery visitation & obon gathering



2012 Buddhist Memorial Service

Year of Death (死亡年)

2011	First annual memorial1 year from death
2010	3rd2 full years from death
2006	7th6 full years from death
2000	13th12 full years from death
1996	17th16 full years from death
1988	25th24 full years from death
1980	33rd32 full years from death
1963	50th49 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.

Shop & Gift Cards

Donna Dubbelboer can be found most Sundays at tea-time for your convenience in purchasing or ordering cards.



Isla, Lily and Asha enjoy the new lap top purchased by the BTSA for the Dharma class.



MEIN MAKING Jan 28





Dharma Class Notes

A new format for the dharma classes has been initiated in light of the increased numbers and a broader range of ages in attendees. Staff volunteers are Maya Ichikawa, Andrew Ichikawa, Brenda Ikuta, Tahirih Rempel and Lorita Ichikawa. Sheila Oishi is also on the Dharma School Committee, which met in January. Dharma children and youth are now divided into two groups. Pre-School to Grade 1 is led by Maya with Tahirih assisting. Although we don't have space or staffing for daycare, toddlers can be accommodated with Lorita assisting. Parents are asked to stay with children under two. Grade 2 and up (ages 8-12) will be led by Andrew. Brenda will lead or assist in either group as needed.

Dharma classes will start before sensei's message and end at 11:30 when parents may pick them up for tea. On occasion the youth group may stay for sensei's message. There will be Dharma classes for special services (next is Hanamatsuri in April) and the monthly Shotsuki. Any cancellations of dharma classes will be conveyed through Maya's regular e-mails to parents. Two classrooms using the room divider are being used, however occasionally a portion of the multipurpose room or the boardroom may be necessary. As the garden has been difficult to maintain, it will be taken out and replaced with more flowers and sod in order to increase the play area. Marko Hilgersom has volunteered to do this.

Due to safety issues, additional cones for the parking lot are being requested. It was also suggested that the basketball net and other outdoor equipment (table etc.) be grounded in concrete as there is no convenient storage area in proximity to the dharma class and items are difficult to move in and out quickly. There is a need for additional furnishings and class resources, which will be purchased in the near future. A laptop computer approved by the Board for purchase has already been used to enhance dharma activities.

As some youth have expressed an interest in being MC for services, Roland Ikuta has agreed to pair with them when he is chair. Lisa Sakamoto and Charlotte Ikuta will train interested youth as runners at the next chow mein supper. Most recently youth did the calling at the New Year's party bingo. Members will continue to have the opportunity of sharing their interests and skills with the dharma kids. Lorita will contact those interested to share a project.



Dharma students enjoyed calling and playing BINGO at the New Year's party. Thank you to Roland Ikuta for assisting the callers, and Akira & Lorita Ichikawa for looking after prizes.

Schedule 光 February & March 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。

FEBRUARY: TOBAN 1

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Gentle Yoga 7pm SAB Choir		
			1	2	3	4
10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service		12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSA board meeting	Gentle Yoga 7pm SAB Choir		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10 - 10:15am Dharma Study 10:30am Nirvana Day Service		12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke	Gentle Yoga 7pm SAB Choir		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10 - 10:15am Dharma Study 10:30am Regular Service		12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke	Gentle Yoga 7pm SAB Choir	Hikari article deadline	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10 - 10:15am Dharma Study 10:30am Regular Service		12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke			
26	27	28	29			

MARCH: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Gentle Yoga No Choir		
				1	2	3
10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service AGM to follow service		12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke	Gentle Yoga No Choir		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10 - 10:15am Dharma Study 10:30am Regular Service		12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSA Board Meeting	Gentle Yoga 7pm SAB Choir		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10 - 10:15am Dharma Study 10:30am Ohigan Equinox Service		12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke	Gentle Yoga 7pm SAB Choir		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10 - 10:15am Dharma Study 10:30am Eshin-ni and Kakushin-ni Service	Hikari article deadline	12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke	Gentle Yoga 7pm SAB Choir		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31