



February 2013

The time to fall is the moment to float, how wonderful lotus flower is!

The 15th World Buddhist Women's Convention is to be held in Calgary in 2015. This will be the second time that Canada has hosted the convention. The first time was in 1990. It was held in Vancouver and I happened to be the minister there. I remember we had numerous meetings for its preparation which is now a fond memory for me.

The convention logo for 2015 is a maple leaf with lotus blooms within it. It is a very beautiful logo.

The lotus is an important symbol in the Buddhist tradition. We see all kinds of images of Buddha either standing or sitting on the lotus. The lotus does not grow in the solid ground of lofty plateaus, but rather it grows in the muddy ponds of lowland marshes. This is an analogy meaning that ordinary and foolish beings, while in the mud of blind passions, put forth the blossoms of "entrusting minds" (*shinjin*) to the boundless compassion of the Buddha which naturally leads them to perfect enlightenment, like the Buddha. It teaches us that negative transforms into truly positive through the working of Buddha's compassion.

We tend to think that the Buddha is above us and that we are below the Buddha. We tend to think that we must try to work hard in order to reach the heights that are above, the Buddha of Enlightenment. Thus, we, especially people in the West, think that Buddhism is a goal-oriented teaching. We think that what we have to do is to try to sever all kinds of negatives, blind passions and attain the truly positive, the goal and become a Buddha.

Shinran Shonin (1173-1263), however, found the Buddha amid the mud of blind passions, in the same dwelling place as his. Initially, he tried to eliminate all his blind passions and wanted to become clean and pure like the Buddha. But he eventually met the Buddha in the mud of blind passions. I think it is because he learned from his teacher, master Honen (1133-1212), the true nature of the Buddha, the boundless and unconditional compassion. He learned that Buddha's dwelling place was not above, not over there, but here and now with all sentient beings in suffering and delusion.

When he found the Buddha here and now, he must have appreciated and bowed to the mud of blind passions. The Buddha of the boundless compassion has never existed apart from ordinary, foolish beings. This realization freed Shinran Shonin from delusion. He became, not the same as, but equal to the Buddha, here and now. He was aware that he will be able to become the same as the Buddha at any moment when he discarded his human body, his physical life. There was no struggle for him anymore. There was no fear for him anymore. This is what the lotus teaches us. Yes, the lotus which is nurtured in the muddy ponds, blossoms its beautiful flower which symbolizes our "deep entrusting mind" (*shinjin*) to the Buddha of boundless compassion, Amida.

The time to fall is the moment to float, how wonderful lotus flower is!

Namo Amida Butsu
Yasuo Izumi, Minister
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

人間を救うもの

私たちのお寺では、日曜礼拝の後、月々の当番の方々により、茶菓の用意がされます。時々昼食まがいの食事が出ることがあります。そんな時、箸も用意されますが、白人の参拝者も含め、ほとんどの方たちは箸を使います。最近の日本では、箸を使うことの出来ない子供が増えていると聞きました。箸の代わりにフォークを使うというのです。明治維新から150年になろうとしています。その頃から日本の西洋化が進んだといわれます。箸からフォークに代わりつつあるのも、その結果だろうか、などと思ったりします。その反面、西洋に日本の習慣が紹介され、根付き出しているということも言えそうです。仏教に関して言えば、日本では「葬式仏教」などと、皮肉られているようですが、これもまたその反面、西洋では、仏教が多くの人々から興味の眼で見られ始められているのです。仏教の真髄である「慈悲の心」も、やがて西洋から日本へと逆輸入される日が来るかもしれません。もともと、地球的観点から見れば、日本とか西洋とかに分ける必要もなく、人間を本当に救うもの、人間に真の安らぎを与える「教え」こそが必要とされ、残されていくことになるのでしょうか。仏教はそのような教えであると確信しつつ、お互い、いよいよ聞法させて頂きたいものであります。合掌 泉

Annual General Meeting March 3

Notice of the BTSA 2013 Annual General Meeting Please regard this as official notification that the 2013 AGM will be held March 3, 2013, following the monthly memorial service. The BTSA by-law requires at least 15 days written notice prior to the date of the annual general meeting. The 2011 AGM approved that an announcement like this in the Hikari constitutes official notification.

All members are encouraged to stand for a BTSA temple board position for a two-year term at the elections which will be held next month at the annual general meeting. Six positions will be vacated and while there are current directors willing to continue, elections will be needed to renew the mandate.

The board holds 11 monthly meetings (none in August) and looks after temple governance. The meetings rarely exceed two hours. Please give a few hours of your time to set policy and look after important issues of the temple's wellbeing.

The AGM also will be asked to approve the 2014 membership fee of \$100, recommended by the board. The 2013 amount, passed at last year's AGM, is \$100.

One of the agenda items will be whether BTSA as an organization should contribute to charities. The board would like some direction from the membership. In the past, the board has approved donations to various local charities such as Habitat for Humanity, the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen and Harbour House.

Financial and committee reports also will be circulated and presented.



BTSA President, Akira Ichikawa and Minister, Yasuo Izumi raise glasses to 2013.

BTSA NOTES

February marks the end of our food collection box for the Lethbridge Interfaith Food Bank, but there's still time to contribute before we estimate the total value and match it with a BTSA cheque for that amount. Please consider dropping off desired parcels to help out. Our thanks to those who have helped fill the container thus far.

Izumi sensei will hold a Pet Memorial Service, along with the Nirvana Day commemoration, at the second regular Sunday service of February (Feb. 10). Please check out an article about this elsewhere in this Hikari.

Also, look over the item about our annual general meeting scheduled for March 3, following the monthly memorial service on that day. Come and hear brief reports of the past year and help the board oversee the activities of the temple.

The BTSA will host the annual general meeting during the last week of April of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, our national organization with headquarters in Steveston, B.C. We're expecting anywhere up to 50 delegates and would like to make a gala event of this annual meeting. BTSA members are invited to join the delegates for a banquet on April 27 and a bento lunch the following Sunday after the memorial service. No price has been set at the time this Hikari was printed, but please watch for an article with further details in the next issue and for a sign-up sheet on the temple bulletin board.

Reviewing the past month, the new year season began auspiciously on the last day of 2012 at the Nikka Yuko Garden with the Joya-no-Kane (bell-ringing ceremony) and the first day of the year with a short New Year's Day service at the temple. A temperate new year's eve attracted what has possibly been the largest-ever turnout for the Joya-no-Kane event, followed by refreshments at the Garden office.

About 25 persons turned out for the New Year's Day service, which was followed by a toast to 2013 during the after-service get together for refreshments.

There was a large turnout on Jan. 20 for Ho-onko, held in conjunction with the monthly memorial service for January and the BTSA new year's party. Toban 1 provided a delicious bento for the occasion which was well-received by about 150 attendees. The party was rounded out with a joyous bingo session, during which time some of the left-over bento were among the most highly-prized winnings.

Rounding out the month was movie night, with a feature about 9/11 called "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close." A good turnout of viewers watched this gripping film. Please keep an eye out for news about the next movie night.

Akira Ichikawa



JOYA-NO-KANE (New Year's Eve Bell-Ringing) at the Nikka Yuko Garden drew about 130 people, the largest in recent memory. Izumi sensei thought an article in Lethbridge Living magazine and the temperate night weather helped to draw the huge crowd. A full moon hung overhead in a partly cloudy sky and made a picture-perfect setting for the annual event.
Photo by John Dubbelboer



Bento prepared by Toban 1 for the Ho-onko/New Year's party

TOBAN UPDATE

Contact lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com or 403.327.1668

Toban Schedule

February	Toban 2
March	Toban 3
April	Toban 4

Thanks to **Toban 1** for tea and refreshments each week. Lilly and Sheila Oishi and their crew prepared several traditional Japanese treats over the month, including Ozoni, fried age (tofu), chawanmushi and, of course, the delicious bento for Hoonko.

Soup Kitchen

A group of 14 from Toban 4 arrived on Jan. 22nd prepared to serve four pots of a hearty Hamburger Stew with Pasta cooked by Dave Kunimoto and Tak Okamura. The rest of the crew was busy washing and cutting up the vegetables and also preparing and making the egg salad sandwiches along with a wonderful fruit salad. We served 105 guests who ate heartily and enjoyed seconds. Thank goodness for the dishwasher as it made the clean-up so much quicker. Thanks to all of the members that came out to help this needy cause.

Jan Okamura

Upcoming dates:

Wed, Feb 6	Toban 3
Mon, Apr 22	Toban 2
Wed, May 15	Toban 1

CHAIR SCHEDULE February & March 2013

Feb 03 SHOTSUKI

Chair: Sylvia Oishi
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Feb 10 NIRVANA DAY/PET SERVICE

Chair: Pat Sassa
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Feb 17

Chair: Sway Nishimura
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Feb 24

Chair: John Dubbelboer
Audio: Tak Okamura

Mar 03 SHOTSUKI

Chair: Florence Senda
Audio: John Dubbelboer

Mar 10

Chair: Katie Nakagawa
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Mar 17

Chair: Deanna Jones
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Mar 24 ESHINNI/KAKUSHINNI MEMORIAL

Chair: Joyce Shigehiro
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Mar 31

Chair: David Major
Audio: Tak Okamura

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



TOBAN FOUR members looked after the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen lunch on Jan. 22. Front, from left, Noriko Oga, Ria Nagai, Jean Oga, Betty Taniguchi, Heidi Oishi, Judy Fukushima, and Jan Okamura. Back, from left, Jack Nagai, Dave Kunimoto, George Tokuda, Tak Okamura, Yumi Osaka, Sam Taniguchi and Stan Peters.
Photo - courtesy of Tak Okamura

2013 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: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Cellphone No.: _____

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 service & New Year's party

REGULAR EVENTS

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir will take a practice break in February. We welcome new members who enjoy singing the dharma! Please contact: Katie Nakagawa 403. 327.4296 or katie@shaw.ca

Tonari Gumi

Tuesdays 12 - 3 pm

Taiko Class

Tuesdays 6:30 youth, 7 - 8:30 pm adults

Contact: David Tanaka at 403.330.1548 or david@eyesquared.com

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club

Wednesdays 1:30 - 4 pm

PROGRAMS

Contact: Lorita Ichikawa 403.327.1668 or lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

Gentle Yoga for Seniors sessions to commence in April

"Breathing, Stretching, Moving" (Aiki Breathing Class)

sessions to commence in the spring

Women's Federation World Convention Craft Group will meet the 3rd Sunday of each month following service and tea, starting February 17.

Please contact: Totsy Nishimura 403.752.3435 or swayn@telusplanet.net

Junior Minyo Dancers meets Sundays at 1:30. Dates are February 3, 10 and 17 and March 3, 10 and 17. Pat is requesting a loan of Junior kimonos (6-8) for a performance in June. Please contact her @ 403.329.3105 for details.

Mindful Meditation Session 2 begins February 28 and will run through April 4 at 5:30 to 6:30 pm. under the guidance of Dr. Rachael Crowder. This follows the successful session in the fall. No previous meditation experience is necessary. Suggested donation for the course is \$40 for members, \$50 for non-members. To register, contact Sylvia Oishi at sylvia.oishi@albertacourts.ca or phone 403 328 5849. Dr. Crowder also will have drop-in guided meditation on Thursdays at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. until Session 2 begins. This runs about 30-40 minutes, followed by mindful inquiry. It is offered on a come-when-you-can, pay-what-you-can basis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences

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

Mary Chika Sawada (86) Jan 18, 2013

Kiyoka Tokunaga (89) Jan 21, 2013

Reminder: Please schedule all activities, including Toban meetings, events and food preparation with Fudge Takeda at 403-394-9789.

A sample of a portable shrine (o-butudan) has arrived from Buddhist store in Japan. Those who are interested, please come to take a look at minister's office or call (403)-382-7024.

Mein-Making and Spring Supper

The spring chow mein supper has been set for May 4, with Judy Takaguchi kindly agreeing to head this demanding task as she so ably did last fall's supper.

- In advance of the supper, a mein noodle-making session has been set for March 9 at 8:00 am with Mary Shigehiro coordinating.
- As in the past, we look forward to great assistance from our members to help out at both events.
- More details will be forthcoming in the months ahead, including distribution of tickets.



2013 Obon Schedule and Cemetery Visitations

To help prepare for the summer and to plan family reunions and get-togethers, please note the schedule for the coming Obon season.

Watch for a schedule of bon odori practices at the temple, beginning in June.

July 7,	11 am	Brooks Cemetery visitation (Obon service at Heritage Inn)
July 14,	10 am	Magrath Cemetery visitation
	11 am	Temple Hill Cemetery visitation
July 20,	6:30 pm	Bon Odori, Galt Gardens, Lethbridge
July 21	1 pm	Mountain View Cemetery visitation
	2:30 pm	BTSA Obon Service at the BTSA temple
July 28	1 pm	Taber Cemetery visitation and Obon gathering

NIRVANA DAY PET MEMORIAL SERVICE



How often have pet owners confided in their pets--dogs, cats, birds, goldfish, etc.--and found comfort in the unconditional love they give? Izumi Sensei will inaugurate a Pet Memorial service, in conjunction with Nirvana Day, during the regular Sunday service on Feb. 10, at 10:30 a.m. To express our gratitude to the numerous pets that have affected our lives, this will be an opportunity to commemorate them. Those who wish are invited to bring favorite photos of their pets--living or deceased--to display on the najjin.

Treasurer's Note: It is easier for the treasurer if members can combine donations on a single cheque. As an example, we received up to three cheques from an individual at the Ho-onko Service (one for Ho-onko, one for Shotsuki and one for membership). A single cheque with the details written into the memo area of the cheque is acceptable.

Thank you,
John Dubbelboer

Memberships to Jan 22, 2013 – 54
(A running total will be published each month)

Ho-onko Donations 2013

Roy Asato	Noriko Oga
Eietsu Chiba	Kaz & Setsuko Ohno
John & Donna Dubbelboer	May Ohno
Mitsuyo Fujimoto	Randy Ohno
Judy Fukushima	Setsuko Okuma
Dorene Gordon	Heidi Oishi
Chiduka Hamabata	Tak & Jan Okamura
Terry Hanna & Sylvia Oishi	Yumiko Osaka
Shinako (Sheila) Higa	Hisae Price
Shirley N Higa	Roy & Pat Sassa
Janet Hinatsu	Bob & Eiko Shigehiro
Marie Hirashima	Joe & Mary Shigehiro
Tsuyoshi & Mariko Hironaka	Joyce Shigehiro & Trevor Van Sluys
Tomi Hisaoka	Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
Violet Horii	Toshino Shigemi
Toshimi & Marian Ibuki	Tomiko Shono
Akira & Lorita D Ichikawa	Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
Susumu & Teruko Ikuta	Tomiko Sugimoto
Molly H. Ito	Miyo Sunada
Sue S Kado	Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
Tom & Lily Kaga	Kazuko Takaguchi
Sadae Kanegawa	Robert & Judy Takaguchi
Hiroshi Kitagawa	Fugi Takeda
Takeshi & Sue Koyata	Toshiko Takeda
Eileen Kunimoto	Reiko Takeyasu
Kay K. Matsuda	Tomiko Takeyasu
Kinuko Matsuno	Eichi & Betty Tanaka
Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno	Masaye Tanaka
John & Jean Miyanaga	Toshiko Tanaka
Mark & Tamara Miyanaga	Harry & Betty Tanigami
Kiyoshi & Marion Mori	Bob & Shirley Taniguchi
William T & Setsuko Nagai	Sam & Betty Taniguchi
Jim Nakagawa	Jean Tatebe
Shig & Katie K Nakagawa	Raymond & Sue Thibodeau
Tosh Nakahama	George Tokuda
Teiji Nakamura	Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita
Roy & Minnie Nakatsuru	Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
May Nishikawa	Tak & Yoko Tsujita
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura	Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima
Mac & Reyko Nishiyama	
Mitsuko Oga	

Total - \$5,180

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

January 2013

Judy Fukushima
Chiduka Hamabata
Nadine Hamabata
Shirley N Higa
Marie Hirashima
Tomi Hisaoka
Molly H. Ito
Sue S Kado
Hiroshi Kitagawa
Eileen Kunimoto
Robert & Toshi Miyanaga
Jim Nakagawa
Shig & Katie K Nakagawa
May Nishikawa
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
Mac & Reyko Nishiyama
Mitsuko Oga
May Ohno
Randy Ohno
Bob & Eiko Shigehiro
Joe & Mary Shigehiro
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
Miyo Sunada
Jean Tatebe
Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima

Total - \$1,315

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.

Other Donations

Syed & Cheryl Ali
Rita Ritsuko & John M Aoki
Choju Kai
Shirley Higa
Janet Hinatsu
Robert Hironaka
Tucker Hironaka
Tomi Hisaoka
Rumiko Ibuki
Susumu & Teruko Ikuta
Tosh & Tsuyako Iwamoto
John & Alice Kanashiro
Sadae Kanegawa
Chizuko Kimura
Lethbridge Karaoke Club
Bob Mikado
Garry & Starr Mills
Montreal Buddhist Church
Amy Nakamura
Susumu Nakamura Family
Saburo & Kimino Nishi
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
Norreen Nishiyama
Eichi Osaka
Yumiko Osaka
Gordon & Joy Saruwatari
Craig & Sachi Scharf
Florence Senda
Roy & Kyoko Senda
Nobuko & Mary Shono
Susan Michi & Darin Lee Sirovyak
Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
Tom & Tsuyako Tajiri
Sam & Betty Taniguchi
Bill Teshima
Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima
Ken & Hiroko Yoshihara

Total - \$5,625

2012 Tax Receipts

In compliance with Canadian Revenue Agency requirements, tax receipts for the year 2012 will be mailed out before the end of February, 2013. Thank you for your generous donations throughout the past year.



THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA
children & youth dharma classes



Viewing animation projects.



Bingo players and callers at the Ho-onko/New Year's gathering.



Ho-onko service

BUDDHIST Q & A

What is an o-butudan? (お仏壇とは?)

O" is an honorific prefix and "butudan" means Buddha's shrine or altar. Many Buddhists have their own portable o-butudan at home. We, Jodo shinshu followers, o-butudan is a home of Amida Buddha, the realm of infinite wisdom and boundless compassion in front of which we reflect on our inner-self and express our gratitude to true wisdom and compassion of the Buddha. A priest of another religion, I remember, admired and envied that Buddhists have a portable o-butudan, a focal point of daily activities at individual home. (Y.I.)



Schedule 光 January & February 2013 1月と2月の予定表

Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service 祥月法要 (service in English)

Please bring Homyo (Buddhist Name) of your loved one. 法名をご持参ください。

FEBRUARY: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
10:30am Shotsuki Service 1:30pm Junior Minyo Dancers 3	4	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 5	1:30pm Karaoke 6	7	7pm Dharma Study 8	9
10:30am Nirvana Day Service Pet Service 1:30pm Junior Minyo Dancers 10	11	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 12	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSA Board Meeting 13	14	15	16
10:30am Regular Service 1:30pm Junior Minyo Dancers 17	18	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 19	1:30pm Karaoke 20	21	7pm Dharma Study 22	Deadline to submit Hikari articles 23
10:30am Regular Service 24	25	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 26	1:30pm Karaoke 27	5:30pm Meditation 28		

MARCH: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				5:30pm Meditation	1	2
10:30am Shotsuki Service 1:30pm Junior Minyo Dancers 3	4	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 5	1:30pm Karaoke 6	5:30pm Meditation 7	7pm Dharma Study 8	8am Mein-making 9
10:30am Regular Service 1:30pm Junior Minyo Dancers 10	11	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 12	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSA Board Meeting 13	5:30pm Meditation 14	15	16
10:30am Regular Service 1:30pm Junior Minyo Dancers 17	18	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 19	1:30pm Karaoke 20	5:30pm Meditation 21	7pm Dharma Study 22	23
24 10:30am Regular Service 31	Deadline to submit Hikari articles 25	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 26	1:30pm Karaoke 27	5:30pm Meditation 28	29	30