

Hikari the Light

July & August 2012



BON ODORI Why don't you come out and dance?



Obon season is swiftly approaching. Obon is essentially a Buddhist memorial service. Along with Obon Service, Bon Odori (odori means dance) is always popular in Japan. It is becoming global* and popular as a participatory event, even in southern Alberta.

Obon Service is a time for spiritual nourishment to remember our loved ones and departed friends. Bon Odori is the physical expression of joy in which we become one with our deceased in Amida Buddha's boundless compassion.

When I was a student in Tokyo I was involved in a Buddhist Sunday school with other school friends. Every summer, we set up a six meter (18 feet) high yagura/ stage for Bon Odori at the temple grounds. In those days, nearly 3,000 dancers and onlookers joined Bon Odori. I used to beat taiko/drum during the dance. This continued even after I came to Canada. When the taiko group was organized two years ago at our temple, I decided to learn odori/dance. Some members of Minyo (folk song) group are teaching us every Monday evening how to dance at the Bon Odori. Believe it or not, I am the only male who eagerly practices it. Two men attended the first two practices, but they seem to have stopped coming.

Many people in this area believe that Bon Odori is just for ladies. Some think Bon Odori is a show to be watched, but it is an informal dance and not meant to be a show for an audience. Dancers of the festival wear yukata and not formal kimono. The yukata is informal; it is loose and relaxing summer wear. Bon Odori dancers and drummers are not really professional. Watchers are never to be charged. Everyone, young or old, man or woman, rich or poor, is able to join Bon Odori and dance in joy. Each dance is the expression of joy embraced by Buddha's compassion. There is no tension but only relaxation in both dancers and watchers.

Tokushima prefecture in Japan is well known for its Bon Odori called Awa Odori (Tokushima is formerly known as Awa). People dance, singing "*The dancers are fools. The watchers are fools. Both are fools alike so why not dance and enjoy the moment?*" The expression is a typical example of "just dance in joy". There is no good or bad, no better or worse. There is no comparison or pretence. There is no judge. The mistakes are accepted or rather, seen as humorous. We put our ego-mind aside and become one with our departed friends in the Pure Land of Enlightenment. We return to being a truly human and just dance in joy during Bon Odori.

Why don't you come out and dance?
Hah... Yoi, yoi, yoi ... Sore, sore, sore ...
(These calls have no meaning but help to encourage the dancers.)

*(Please see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4EGnahiTs> for the event in the mid-American state of Missouri; click on a number of other events from around the world.)

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

お盆

今年もお盆がやってきました。南アルバータ仏教会の今年のお盆法要は、7月15日(日)午後2時半にお勤めされます。亡き人を偲びながら、み仏の広大な慈悲を思わせていただく時です。すっかり日本語に定着している「お盆」という言葉は、元々、インドの言葉「ウランバーナ」に由来されています。「ウランバーナ」とは「さかさづりの苦しみ」という意味ですが、すべてを、自分中心に物事を考えているため、物事の本当の姿が見えないところから生まれてくる苦しみの世界のことで。この苦しみの世界は、いろいろな形で現れますが、「餓鬼の世界」がその一つです。いくらあっても、まだ足りない不足、不満の世界です。

考えてみると、私たちの生活(衣、食、住)は、どれをとっても、自分の力だけでは成り立ちません。また、空気も水も、朝から晩まで「お世話」になっているのです。にもかかわらず、感謝の気持ちもなく、それどころか、もっとお金が欲しい、名誉、地位も欲しい、「欲しい、欲しいで日が暮れた」というような我利、我欲の生活をしているのではないのでしょうか。そして、自分だけでなく、周りの人たちをも苦しめているのです。このような私たちの「餓鬼の生活」を憐(あわ)れみ、感謝のある真の生活に目ざめさせようと、働いてくださるのが慈悲と呼ばれる仏様の働きです。亡き人は、慈悲の仏様となって、私たちの「さかさづり」のあり方を心配していて下さいます。お盆を、まことの生活に目覚めるご縁とさせていただき、いよいよ仏恩を思わせていただきましょう。合掌
泉康雄

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BTSA NOTES

Obon is the major temple focus in July as BTSA prepares for a weekend of celebration and commemoration to observe one of Jodo Shinshu's three important annual events, the other two being Ho-onko in January and Hanamatsuri in April. Please see details in a related story in this issue on the bon odori, the temple Obon service and sensei's cemetery visitation schedule for the area.

Dancers have been practicing since the beginning of June in preparation for the bon odori on July 14. Anyone interested can still attend the remaining practice sessions on July 2 and 9 at the temple at 6:30 p.m.

We request all members' assistance for the odori set-up which again will be held at the Galt Gardens. This year, festivities begin at 6 p.m., an hour earlier than in the past. This year's odori will be dedicated to the memory of Aya Hironaka who taught dances for many years and who died in October, 2011.

Blue skies and a slight breeze made for a beautiful day for the temple's annual picnic at the John Martin Recreation area in Pavan Park on June 17. About 75 persons--many of them children--enjoyed the delicious potluck lunch and KFChicken, followed by kids' activities and bingo, complete with prizes and good cheer. Our thanks to Terry Horii who donated bottles of water and two beautiful baskets of goodies, one for adults and the other for children, which were used as blackout prizes. Congratulations to Kazuko Sugimoto, the adult winner, and Yoshio Oishi who won the children's blackout bingo.

The picnic began with an outdoor Sunday service at which the MC, Roland Ikuta, was assisted by Sam Hilgersom. We will be trying to encourage children to assist in chairing and the picnic service was the inaugural service for this plan. Please let us know if others have any interest in looking after a regular service.

At its June meeting, the board agreed to have Airstream Exhaust and Duct Cleaning Ltd. clean the kitchen ducts. The Lethbridge Fire Department stipulated they must be cleaned according to provincial requirements, which means every six months. We were given a variance on the rule by being allowed to have it done once a year, but an extension beyond that was not permitted. This will be an annual cleaning whose cost will be included in the temple maintenance budget.

In other action, the board:

- voted to rollover five GICs maturing in July by dividing the total amount of more than \$125,000 into three GICs due in a year, 18 months and two years;
- approved the payment of its annual dues of \$65 a member to

the JSBTC based upon BTSA's membership at the end of 2011, which stood at 260;

- will look into the possibility of having the entire hondo installed with acoustic tiles; currently, only the top portion has them;
- was told that the ABC this year in Calgary will be a one-day event on Nov. 11; and,
- was informed by Val Boras that the temple library has been organized with the help of volunteers and a borrowing system has been put into place. The board expressed appreciation to Val and the volunteers for undertaking this project.

Finally, a reminder that the board and the Hikari take a month off in August. The board meeting after July 11, is scheduled for September 12. The next Hikari will be the September issue.

Happy summer to all.

Akira Ichikawa

CHAIR SCHEDULE July, August & September 2012

10:30 am except Obon

July 01

Chair: Roland Ikuta
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

July 08

Chair: Joyce Shigehiro
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

July 15 OBON

JULY/ AUG SHOTSUKI 2:30
Chair: Pat Sassa
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

July 22

Chair: Robert Takaguchi
Audio: Sway Nishimura

July 29

Chair: Katie Nakagawa
Audio: Tak Okamura

Aug 05

Chair: Deanna Jones
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Aug 12

Chair: Roland Ikuta
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Aug 19

Chair: Reiko Takeyasu
Audio: John Dubbelboer

Aug 26

Chair: Pat Sassa
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Sept 02 SHOTSUKI

Chair: David Major
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Sept 09

Chair: Roland Ikuta/Kids
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Sept 16

Chair: Florence Senda
Audio: Roland Ikuta

Sept 23 Regular

Chair: Margaret Benson
Audio: Tak Okamura

Sept 30

Chair: Robert Takaguchi
Audio: Sway Nishimura

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

BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

BON ODORI

JULY 14, 2012

6PM GALT GARDENS

お盆 JAPANESE SUMMER DANCE FESTIVAL

TRADITIONAL JAPANESE DRESS . MUSIC & DANCING
 TAIKO DRUMMING . KIDS' ACTIVITIES
 SNO-CONES . DHARMA DOGS

Dance Practice for Bon Odori

Time to pick up the rhythm and learn steps for the upcoming bon odori on July 14. There's still time to get in a practice session at the temple. Depending on when this reaches you, July 2 and 9, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the temple are the last two dates before the actual event.

Bon Odori and other festivities begin at 6 p.m. on July 14 at the Galt Gardens. Please note the starting time, which is an hour earlier than previously announced. There will be dharma dogs and activities for the children. Plan on attending this annual get-together to celebrate an important Buddhist holiday, also known as the dance of joy.

The following Sunday will be the Obon commemoration with visitation at the Mountain View Cemetery at 1 p.m., followed by the service at the BTSA at 2:30 p.m. A supper will follow the service. Those observing the first Obon, following a death in the family since the last Obon, will be acknowledged with their "hatsubon" service.

Area cemetery visitations also are scheduled by Izumi sensei throughout the month.

2012 Obon Schedule and Cemetery Visitations

- July 1, 11:00 am - Brooks Cemetery visitation (ohaka mairi) and Obon, Service at Heritage Inn
- July 8, 10:00 am - Magrath Cemetery visitation
11:00 am - Temple Hill Cemetery visitation
- July 15, 1:00 pm - Mountain View Cemetery visitation
2:30 pm - BTSA Obon Service and July/Aug Shotsuki
- July 22, 1:00 pm - Taber Cemetery visitation & obon gathering



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: _____

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!

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.

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

June 2012

Mitsuyo Fujimoto
 Randy Higa
 Shinako (Sheila) Higa
 Rumiko Ibuki
 Ray & Donna Journoud
 Tom & Lily Kaga
 Sadae Kanegawa
 Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
 Mark & Shelly Murakami
 Shig & Katie Nakagawa
 Mitsuko Oga
 Lilly Oishi
 Tak & Jan Okamura
 Ken & Nancy Setoguchi
 Tom Shimosawa
 Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
 Tom & Tsuyako Tajiri
 Kazuko Takaguchi
 Brenda & Lester Tanner
 Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita
 Aiko Yoshihara

Total - \$745

Other Donations

May 2012

Janet Hinatsu
 Dr Roland & Brenda Ikuta
 Molly H. Ito
 Rev Yasuo & Sachi Izumi
 Wayne & Rhonda Kwan
 Lilly Oishi
 Amanda Richardson
 Tomiko Sugimoto
 Wanda Tomiyama
 Ron & Kathryn Yoshida

Total - \$3,545

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

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

will sing at the OBon service and then recess until the fall.
Thursdays 7 - 8:30 pm, July 3 & 10
Contact: Katie Nakagawa 403. 327.4296 or katiinak@shaw.ca

Tonari Gumi

Tuesdays 12 - 3 pm
Resumes September 4
Membership open to all over age 55.

Taiko Class

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

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club

Wednesdays 1:30 - 4 pm
No session through Sept. Resumes October 10.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's Federation World Convention Craft Group will have a table at the Bon Odori. Craft sessions will continue the last Sunday of every month after tea in the boardroom. Please feel free to join in at anytime.

Come this fall, please keep updated on the progress of the Convention by going to <http://www.wbwconvention.ca> or <http://www.wbwconvention.com>
Contact: Totsy Nishimura.

Child and Youth Yukata are needed for the Bon Odori. If you have these items and are no longer using them, consider donating or lending them to the BTSA. They will be well cared for and used in the coming years as we have several children and youth coming up. Please contact Pat Sassa if you would like to donate Yukata. Thank you!

Bon Odori Bazaar

To date the Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden, the WFWC Craft group and the Japanese Language School will be selling items at the bazaar along with the BTSA Dharma Dogs and Sno Cones. Children's activities will be run by volunteers from Nikka Yuko.



BUDDHIST Q & A

What is the realm (path) of Hungry Ghosts (餓鬼道 — がきどう)?

The realm of Hungry Ghosts is one of six realms (paths) of delusion and suffering that sentient beings create according to their negative or positive actions. Six realms are: Hell, Hungry Ghosts, Animals, Asura (fighting), Human, Heaven (temporary happiness). When we are excessively hungry for power, title, fame, love and etc., we are dwelling in the realm of Hungry Ghosts right here and will suffer hereafter. So we'd better be careful. (Y.I.)

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.

July	Toban 2
August	Toban 3
September	Toban 4

Toban 1 coordinated the annual picnic bringing rice, utensils and other goodies to complement the potluck, with special thanks to Lily, Sheila and Morris Oishi. Thanks to Roland Ikuta and some of the youth for calling the Bingo and to Brenda and Roland for organizing the prizes. Thanks to Maya Ichikawa with the assistance of Marko Hilgersom for organizing the children's activities.

Fall Chow Mein Supper is scheduled for October 13. Judy Takaguchi will coordinate and manage this major fundraiser with the assistance of a committee and the many volunteers.

2012 Fall Chow Mein Supper

The 2012 fall chow mein supper has been scheduled for Oct. 13 (Saturday). Further details will be forthcoming. Please mark that date in preparation. Everyone's assistance will be welcomed.

BTSA PICNIC 2012





THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

children & youth dharma classes

IN THE MONTH OF JUNE Children enjoyed games and fun at the BTSA picnic. A special thanks to all who helped out with picnic activities, especially emcee Roland Ikuta, and his organization of the young BINGO callers. Thank you to Marko Hilgersom and the Dharma class for planting wildflowers and perennials in Lumbini Garden.



Schedule 光 July & August 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。

JULY: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11am Brooks Cemetery 1	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice 2	7pm Taiko 3	4	7pm SAB Choir 5	6	7
10am Magrath Cemetery 11am Temple Hill Cemetery 8	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice 9	7pm Taiko 10	7pm BTSA Board Meeting 11	7pm SAB Choir 12	13	6:00pm Bon Odori 14
1pm Mountain View Cemetery 2:30pm Obon service and July/Aug Shotsuki 15	16	7pm Taiko 17	18	19	20	21
1pm Taber Cemetery 22	23	7pm Taiko 24	25	26	27	28
10:30am Regular Service 29	30	7pm Taiko 31				

AUGUST: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
10:30am Regular Service 5	6	7pm Taiko 7	7pm BTSA Board Meeting 8	9	10	11
10:30am Regular Service 12	13	7pm Taiko 14	15	16	17	18
10:30am Regular Service 19	20	7pm Taiko 21	22	23	24	25
10:30am Regular Service 26	27	7pm Taiko 28	29	30	31	

All Sunday throughout August, Sunday Service will be held as usual.