

Hikari the Light



Mar 2012

Thus, when one has boarded the ship of Amida's Vow of great compassion and sailed out on the vast ocean of light, the winds of perfect virtue blow softly and the waves of delusion are transformed. The darkness of ignorance is immediately broken through, and quickly reaching the land of true awakening. ~ Venerable Master Shinran (1173-1263)

Our life has both ups and downs, both happiness and sorrow. Even when we experience happiness, it is not permanent. The opposite is also true. Even when we have some kind of sorrow, it is not permanent. Both are subject to change. Nothing is permanent. When we talk about happiness and sorrow they are conventional and temporary.

There is a Japanese saying, "Mateba Kairo no Hiyorikana," meaning after a storm, comes the calm. If we wait out the storm, calm weather will return to the sea channels. When I was at the Steveston Buddhist Temple in Richmond, B.C., I often heard people mentioning this expression. Steveston is a small town, a fishing village, where there were many retired Japanese fishermen. Even after their retirement they got together and often talked about the weather on the ocean.

"Wait patiently until the weather settles down. Don't panic." They learned this from their long experience as fishermen. The lesson here is that "Don't get discouraged too much even when things do not go your way. Just be patient. Even when things go as you like, just be careful, for nothing is permanent." Even the calm ocean on a perfect day does not mean we are completely free from worries and anxieties, because things in life are impermanent. The winds of impermanency are always blowing and this is natural.

It was two years ago when one of our sons, Ernie, who lives in Japan with his wife, lost their baby. It was stillborn. Then, six days later, one of our daughters, Betty, who lives in Portland, Oregon lost her expected

baby. She miscarried. Our two children experienced sadness and sorrow, one after another. So did my wife and I. However, Betty had a baby girl in May of last year. Ernie and his wife were blessed with a baby girl just a few weeks ago. They are happy and so are we.

This is our changing life. Sometimes we are happy and sometimes we are unhappy and sad. Nothing is permanent, yet we crave only things we like, only things we desire and try to grasp forever. We are constantly fooled by the surface of the ocean and forget to see the ocean itself. We are indeed foolish beings. And yet we do not really know our own foolishness and we keep repeating our foolishness.

The great master Zendo said, "Let us return! Do not abide in the homeland of delusions where there have been no true happiness and peace. Think deeply on impermanence and act so that you do not vainly harbour regrets!"

Still, we do not heed his words; we stay in the homeland of delusions, the burning house, and harbour regrets. The homeland of delusions or the burning house is not somewhere else but ourselves. We, our ego, create it and we cannot see it. I think we are always foolish beings, spiritually blind until we die.

Amida, the truth of life, moves into our delusions and the burning house. Namo Amida Butsu is the compassionate call of Amida to try and awaken us to our foolish selves by embracing and supporting us as we are. The working of Namo Amida Butsu indeed leads us to overcome life's ups and downs, happiness and sorrow. Jodo Shinshu followers just listen to Amida's call and take each occasion of life, whether happy or sad, as another opportunity to touch the truth of life, the life of impermanency, and live life to the fullest, being aware of both potential and limitation in this world. Then they simply respond to

Amida's world by reciting Namo Amida Butsu in gratitude and joy.

In Gassho,
Yasuo Izumi, Minister of BTSa

「悲しいことも、嬉しいことも」

私事ですが、今、ワイフは日本に行っております。日本に住んでおります末の息子夫婦に女兒が恵まれたからです。私のワイフは5人の子供を産みましたが、出産で母親が日本からやってきたことはありませんでした。まことに便利な世の中になりました。この息子夫婦は、ちょうど二年前に最初の子供を死産でなくしました。長く子供に恵まれなかった息子は、声を詰まらせながら、そのことを報告してきました。つらかったと思います。この度は、夜中の三時に「産まれた!」と知らせてきました。よほど嬉しかったのでしよう。

私たちの人生には、悲しいことも嬉しいこともあります。そのことは、どなたにも当てはまります。自分の思い通りには行きません。しかし、知っているつもりでも、自分の思いど通りにことが運ばないと、泣き、悲しみ、怒り、あるいは、なげやりな態度になってしまうこともあるのではないのでしょうか。全てを自分の思い通りにしたい、動かしたい、というのが私たちではないのでしょうか。そこに人間の深い、どうにもならぬ「愚かさ」があります。仏教ではこれを「無明」といっています。底なしの闇です。この「愚かさ」「闇」に光をあて、反省させしめ、そのままに抱き取って下さるのが、仏様の智慧と慈悲の働き、南無阿弥陀仏です。愚かな私たちは、悲しいときも、嬉しいときも、「この私のために、今も仏様は働いて下さっている」と聞かせていただき、南無阿弥陀仏と返事をしながら日暮しさせていただくのです。まことに、朝には合掌礼拝、夕べには感謝です。合掌。泉

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BTSA NOTES

Annual General Meeting

We look forward to your participation at the BTSA AGM on March 4, following the Sunday monthly memorial service. Please help in the governance of the temple by your attendance and assistance. Six new board members will be elected to serve two-year teams.

There will be a slate of nominees, but we encourage any and all who are not on the list to allow their names to stand when nominated at the meeting. Everyone's participation is greatly valued.

Privacy and the Internet

A matter of concern was raised recently and the board felt it useful to seek member input since there may be implications for all, particularly as it could affect privacy.

Grant Ikuta socho alerted us to the matter of material that is placed on the internet. His latest "Bishop's Update" which goes to all JSBTC temples noted a complaint from a person he congratulated on a recent honor, since the update was published on a public domain site. The objection was that both the complainant's name and accomplishment would be noted widely on the internet and threatened the complainant's privacy.

Socho asked that his update be removed from temple websites. We did as he requested, but were further concerned that what we have been publishing on our website generally may be similarly interpreted by members and others whose names have appeared, especially via the e-Hikari.

The Board discussed this matter and decided to publicize it to invite feedback. One suggested solution was not to include the Hikari on the website, but it was felt this would defeat the goal of an open, transparent communication tool to all members.

Over the next little while, we invite comments from members having concerns about this matter so we might be able to develop guidelines about website use.

In other matters during the month, Toban 3 spent Feb. 22 at the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen. The board approved the purchase of two new vacuum cleaners which are already in use. Both are Electrolux and were purchased for \$1,500.

We're looking forward to March with a full schedule of events, some of which are noted elsewhere in the Hikari.

A mein-noodle making session is scheduled for March 31. Orders that were not filled at the last session will be completed. Members who did not get a chance to order, may do so by getting in touch with Jan Okamura or Pat Sassa.

Further ahead, April 8 at 2 p.m. will be Hanamatsuri and the monthly memorial service for April. Michael Hayashi sensei of the Toronto Buddhist Temple will be the guest speaker. Please keep in mind this is the second and not first Sunday of the month.

Infant Presentation Ceremony

Please let Izumi Sensei know if you're are interested in having your child participate in this ceremony before the Hanamatsuri service.

The Spring Chow Mein Supper has been scheduled for May 5, 1 to 5 p.m. Supper tickets at \$10 each will be distributed at the mein making on March 31.

Akira Ichikawa

CHAIR SCHEDULE March & April 2012

Mar 04 Shotsuki

Chair: Deanna Jones
Audio: John Dubbelboer

Mar 11

Chair: John Dubbelboer
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Mar 18

Chair: Roland Ikuta
Kai Ichikawa
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Mar 25

Chair: Katie Nakagawa
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Apr 01

Chair: Reiko Takeyasu
Audio: Roland Ikuta

Apr 08

Hanamatsuri & Shotsuki, 2 pm
Chair: Pat Sassa
Audio: Tak Okamura

Apr 15

Chair: Margaret Benson
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Apr 22

Chair: Kate Ainscough
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Apr 29

Chair: Roland Ikuta/kids
Audio: John Dubbelboer

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 UPDATE

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

March Toban 2
April Toban 3
May Toban 4

Thanks to **Toban 1** for your work in February – especially noteworthy are the wonderful culinary arts of Sheila Oishi with her contemporary versions of manju.

Correction: Thanks to **Toban 4** 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 March 21 (Jan Okamura coordinating) and then April 4 with Toban 1 (Lilly Oishi coordinating). Please feel free to volunteer if you wish. Pat extends thanks to Hisae Price for heading the Toban 3 duties on February 22 and all those that assisted. Special thanks to two new helpers Eileen Sameshima and Marion Pashkowich. Toban 3 has also volunteered to do an additional date (October 24). If any other Toban would like to do an additional Soup Kitchen date, please contact them directly and let Lorita know.

Mein-making – March 31 will be done in two shifts – morning is 8-12:30 and afternoon, 12-4:30. Please let your Toban leader know which shift you prefer. Ten toban members or friends per shift are required. Production will be increased by 30% to fill past orders as well as for the Spring Chow Mein Supper. The sign-up book is for only those who did not receive mein on January 28. Thanking you in advance for your volunteer time and co-operation... Jan and Pat

Toban Leaders Meeting held February 5 confirmed that the Toban system is working well for us. Totsy Nishimura and Hisae Price will be coordinating the groups to make and create items for the World Women's Buddhist Convention (WWBC), Calgary 2015. Canadian items will be sold as part of the fundraising for the convention.

It was also recommended that Toban groups provide outreach to those members who are ill or otherwise unable to come to temple events. Initially, we would like to prepare and deliver meals at special events and service times or when a member becomes ill or homebound. Specifics are to be discussed within each Toban.



Toban 3 Soup Kitchen Volunteers, left to right: David Major, Pat Sassa, Marion Tomiyama, Rev. Izumi, Emily Stitt, Hisae Price, Marge Fujita, Deb Friesen, Katie Nakagawa, Flo Senda, Marion Paskowitch Eileen Samishima, LaVerne Hamabata, Roy Sassa



BUDDHIST Q & A

Why do we offer a candle to Amida Buddha?

The candle symbolises the light of Buddha's wisdom and compassion. Buddha's wisdom and compassion work anytime and anyplace for the sake of all sentient being in delusion. The working of wisdom and compassion is always shining upon us and embracing us as we are. Therefore, we are able to live in our difficult as well as happy time in gratitude. Buddhists offer a candle before Amida Buddha in gratitude and joy.

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!

2011 BTSA Tax Receipts were mailed out this week, before the end of February, and those who donated during last year—including many who gave to the Japan Tsunami Relief Fund in March—should be receiving the receipts this week.

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

February 2012

Chiduka Hamabata

Terry Hanna & Sylvia Oishi

Randy Higa

Shinako (Sheila) Higa

Shirley Higa

Lester Ikuta

Ayako Imahashi

Bob & Sharon Imahashi

Molly Ito

Ray & Donna Journoud

Tom & Lily Kaga

Sadae Kanegawa

Sway & Toshiko Nishimura

Alice Ohashi

May Ohno

Heidi Oishi

Lilly Oishi

Jiro & Mae Sasaki

Roy & Pat Sassa

Joe & Mary Shigehiro

Miyo Sunada

Noris & Sachiko Taguchi

Lester & Brenda Tanner

Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama

Total \$1,385.00

Other Donations

Ken & April Fleury

Yoshio Fujimoto

Chiduka Hamabata

Toshiko Hase

Tomoe Hironaka

Tucker Hironaka

Susumu Ikuta

Setsuko Okuma

Jim & Daisy Oshiro

Jack Panesar

Jiro & Mae Sasaki

Natsuko Sawada

Tomiko Takeyasu

George Tokuda

Sonia Sitz

Masaye Tanaka

Total - \$880.00

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

Minyo Dancers will meet March 6 & 27th

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.

tomiya@gmail.com.

PROGRAMS

Gentle Yoga for Seniors with Val Kunimoto

Winter session dates are February 2 - March 22.

Spring session will be coming up.

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.

Hisaye Kunimoto (93) January 28, 2012

Larry Kenji Sakamoto (64) February 5, 2012

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. Please consider purchasing gift cards for yourselves and on behalf of your friends.

Nenju (Juzu) Hospital

Sunday, March 25 - We repair broken Nenju. Everyone Welcome!

Those who can help please join.

MOVIE NIGHT AT THE TEMPLE

Friday, March 23rd, 2012 at 7 PM

"HI, DHARMA!!" Directed by Park Chui Kwan.

Korean movie with English subtitles. Rated A 14.

Snacks and tea to follow the movie.

"It's Monks vs. gangsters in a battle of the wits!

In this critically acclaimed action comedy from Korea, a group of thugs running away from an escalating gang war finds refuge in a Buddhist monastery. As they don the robes and settle in, the gangsters' rascal-like behavior begins to wear on the monks who decide to come up with a series of games for their obnoxious guests."

Introduction to Buddhism

The final introduction to Buddhism class will be held on Wednesday March 28th, 2012. Izumi Sensei will cover the importance of the Meditation Sutra (Kammuryoju kyo) to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Copies of the English translation of the sutra will be handed out prior to the session. Other questions about Buddhism or the Jodo Shinshu sect also be entertained. If you have ongoing questions about Buddhism please plan to attend. The session will start at 7 PM. Please contact Roland Ikuta if you would like to attend at 403-317-0078 or by email at rolikuta@shaw.ca

NEW!

THE DHARMA EXCHANGE

Starting Sunday, March 11th we will be holding a discussion group in the multi-purpose room on the second Sunday of each month between approximately 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The topic of discussion will be an article relating to Buddhism that has been selected and provided in advance to any interested members/participants. We look forward to this new opportunity to meet and share our ideas on a wide range of topics.

An article will be selected and distributed to those who are interested by Feb 25th via email or you can pick up a copy at the temple. If you are interested in receiving the article please contact Roland Ikuta at 403-317-0078 or by email rolikuta@shaw.ca



Food Bank Donations Amount to \$500. Fudge Takeda and Lilly Oishi hold donated goods by temple members designated for the Lethbridge Food Bank. The Board approved a cheque equal to the estimated value of \$250, with both turned over to the Food Bank at the end of February. Thanks to everyone who donated during the past three months and to Jan Okamura who estimated the value of the goods.



Taiko on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 for the youth group continues, with David Tanaka. Regular taiko begins at 7pm.



The Dharma room has been buzzing with activity!
 It's nice to see so many young people every week.

Left, older student, Kayley, reads to a younger group.

Below, Andrew leads a discussion about interdependence

UPCOMING EVENT

**Hanamatsuri Service
 (Buddha's Birthday)**

Sunday, April 8 • 2:00

- Dharma class presentation
- Birthday cake!



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.

Schedule 光 March & April 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。

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 11:30am Dharma Exchange		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	7pm Movie Night at the Temple	
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 7pm Intro to Concentration (Meditation) Sutra	7pm SAB Choir		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Sunday, March 25: Nenju (Juzu) Hospital We repair broken Nenju. Everyone Welcome! Those who can help please join.

APRIL: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 - 10:15am Dharma Study 10:30am Regular Service				7pm SAB Choir		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2pm Hanamatsuri & Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service Infant Presentation Ceremony (before service)		12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSA board meeting	7pm SAB Choir		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10 - 10:15am Dharma Study 10:30am Regular Service		12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke	7pm SAB Choir		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10 - 10:15am Dharma Study 10:30am Regular Service		12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke	7pm SAB Choir JSBTC Ministers' Meeting / AGM in Winnipeg	JSBTC Ministers' Meeting / AGM in Winnipeg	JSBTC Ministers' Meeting / AGM in Winnipeg
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:30am Regular Service						
29	30					