



May 2010

## Life of Impermanency



Around summer time last year, my wife and I had good news from our son who is living in Japan. He phoned, informing us that his wife was pregnant and expecting a baby. They had no children for a long time, so it was exciting news for them as well as for us to welcome their first child. A few months later, one of our daughters living in the United States called us. She said she was expecting her second child. We have now six grandchildren. The news means that we will soon have two additions.

In mid-January this year, I received a phone call from Japan. My son was crying on the phone and told me that they had lost their baby. The baby lived in the mother's womb for five months and died. He explained that the baby got tangled in his umbilical cord. Then, six days later, our expectant daughter called us, sobbing and saying she had had a miscarriage. We lost two expected grandchildren one after another. Our children experienced sadness and sorrow. So did we.

In Buddha Dharma we talk about impermanency. Impermanency means that there is no permanent thing but everything

is changing and evolving. Whosoever is born will age, become sick, and die eventually. Impermanency is meeting and parting. This is the natural flow of life. This is reality of life which no one can deny. When a baby is born we are happy and celebrate. When someone we love dies we are sad and cry. When a flower blooms we are happy. When our pet dies we are sad. Life includes birth and death, meeting and parting, happiness and sadness. Real life has both, birth and death, happiness and sadness. There is no life which has only birth or only happiness. Life is constantly moving and changing. Furthermore, Buddha Dharma teaches us that the mind of grasping, clinging, craving and attachment to something that is in continual flux is a cause of delusion and suffering.

Theoretically and intellectually we well understand about the life of impermanency. Yes, we know everything... but our own ignorant self! A well known poet, Issa Kobayashi (1763-1828) expressed his sadness due to his own ignorance of the life of impermanency in his *haiku* poem when his daughter died young:

*The world of dew is the world of dew.  
And yet, and yet...*

In this short *haiku* poem we can see his deep grief and suffering. He is expressing his own ignorant self honestly and openly. The great compassion of Amida Buddha is working in the midst of such pitiful ignorant being.

Shinran Shonin (1173-1263) wrote:  
*When we reflect on the establishment of the Vow,  
We find that Amida Buddha, without  
abandoning sentient beings in pain,  
Has taken the directing of virtue to them as foremost,  
Thus fulfilling the mind of great compassion.*

Amida Buddha symbolizes truth of life – impermanency. In the midst of our sadness due to our deep ignorance, Amida

is constantly working to awaken us to truth of life. When I understand this, my unborn grandchildren became good teachers who were urging me to listen to compassion of Amida, truth of life, and live life to the fullest.

In Gassho,  
Yasuo Izumi, Minister of BTSA

お釈迦様は、人生を無常と説かれました。日本の感覚では、無常を悲観的にとらえる傾向があるようです。つまり、死を連想させる言葉として受け止めます。しかし、お釈迦様が説かれた無常は、いわゆる無常感ではなく、無常観です。無常を明らかに観じる、はっきり観察するということです。生まれること、死ぬこと、ともに無常です。別れること、会うこと、ともに無常です。花が咲き、散っていく、ともに無常です。ところが私たちは、死ぬこと、別れること、散ることだけを無常として、避けようとしています。そして苦しみます。人生の全体を観(み)ることができないのです。人生の全体を観ることが出来ず、受け入れることが出来ずに苦しむのです。このような私たちのあり方を、無明にもとづく人生、迷いの人生と呼びます。無明とは文字通り、明るくない、智慧がない、ということ。迷いは、魔酔(まよい)とも書くように、足が大地にしっかりついていない姿です。このような私たちに、人生の全体、本当の意味での無常を知らせようと仏様が働いて下さるのです。仏様とは、単なる仏像ではありません。常に人生の全体、人生の真実の姿を私たちに知らせようと、大きな願いを持って、いつも働いて下さる方なのです。合掌 泉康雄

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# BTSA NOTES

A full hondo April 11 brightened the annual Hanamatsuri service, celebrating the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha. The hanamido—the flowered structure housing a statute of the baby Buddha—took centre stage as children in attendance presented flowers and poured sweet tea over the statute. Izumi Sensei presented a gift to Mayah Van Sluys during the infant presentation ceremony preceding the service. In a brief program following the service, the Dharma School children sang a song and paraded around the hondo with a long paper chain in accompaniment to The Golden Chain sung by the temple choir. A potluck supper in the multipurpose room concluded the day's activities.

Our thanks to all who attended, participated, assisted and donated so generously.

By the time this Hikari reaches our members, the spring chow mein supper on May 1 will be history. But, it's never too late to acknowledge the numerous hours that the co-chairs Jan Okamura and Pat Sassa spent conferring with others on the chow mein supper committee and discussing the most efficient way to manage the operation. Thanks to them and to all members who turned out for this major fund-raiser.

The Bake Sale and Bazaar planned for May 29 as reported in the April Hikari has been cancelled and will be re-scheduled for a later date in the year. It was felt that the proposed date was too soon after the chow mein supper.

Plans, however, are still in place for the annual BTSA picnic on June 20 at the John Martin Recreation Area, Pavan Park. The city has reserved the area for us from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A regular Sunday service will be held before a pot-luck picnic lunch, with the temple providing KFC treats and beverages. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend.

While still several months away, this year's Alberta Buddhist Conference will be held Oct. 30 and 31 in Calgary, hosted by the Calgary Buddhist Temple. We would like to get an indication of the number of BTSA members interested in attending to let Calgary know how many to expect from southern Alberta. A sign-up sheet has been posted at the temple (multipurpose room bulletin board) to get a count. If there's enough interest, we can plan to charter a bus. This year, the Buddhist film festival which the Calgary temple sponsors will be on linked to the ABC and which will be held Oct. 28 and 29. Please watch for further details.

A lack of a quorum at the April meeting, scheduled the day southern Alberta was struck by a massive spring snowstorm, did not keep board members able to attend from deciding on a couple of much-needed construction matters: a front

sidewalk fix to insure safe and efficient runoff of snowmelt; and treatment of the kitchen cooler to insure noise abatement. Because of their pressing nature, an email vote was held among those unable to attend the meeting. Both items were approved.

Other matters discussed and acted on by the board will be subject to approval at the May board meeting.

One other highly-visible capital improvement is the installation of acoustic tiles in the multipurpose room. At the time of this writing, the job was expected to be completed prior to the chow mein supper.

A final note has to do with summer services which will be held throughout July and August at the regular time of 10:30 a.m. The service will be more informal (no chairperson) with a shorter dharma talk and chanting. Sensei will be available for all Sundays with the exception of occasions when he is required for cemetery visitations and for the BTSA Obon Service on July 18.

Akira Ichikawa



## TOBAN UPDATE

### Toban Rotation Schedule

May	Toban 2
June	Toban 3

**Toban 1** had a busy month with the major Hanamatsuri Service and Potluck Supper. In addition to serving the regular after-service tea it catered a funeral luncheon and worked with **Toban 2** to prepare and serve lunch at the **Soup Kitchen** at which over 60 guests plus staff were served. Many thanks to volunteers Lilly Oishi, Reiko Bolick, Chiyomi Matsuno, Sam Kounosu, Peter and Teri Savage, May Ohno, Hisae Price, Sets Okuma, Mary and Joe Shigihira, Sue Kado, Kim Ohno, and Jack Tsujita.

## Brief JSBTC AGM Notes

Sensei Orai Fujikawa's current term as socho was extended up to a year on April 24 by the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada at its annual general meeting at the Steveston Buddhist Temple. He will step down as soon as a successor is selected, as agreed to by the Ministerial Association which was asked to make a recommendation within that time frame.

Fujikawa socho's term, which ended in March, was extended because socho-designate Shigenori Makino sensei had tendered his resignation in January.

The AGM also agreed to defer until the next AGM consideration of the 2011 budget and assessment owing to difficulties associated with getting an exact membership count. The process had been changed to allow budgeting for a year in advance, but this was found to be unworkable. This year's assessment of \$65.29 per member was set last year based on the 2008 membership count. The hope is that a truer picture of numbers for 2011 would be based upon a membership count as of Dec. 30, 2010.

President David Ohori, Vancouver, continued as JSBTC president. Four others elected were: Jim Hisanaga, vice president, Manitoba; Larry Ryan, secretary, Steveston; Ray Nakano, treasurer, Hamilton; and Tom Allen, at-large, Toronto. Noriko Ikuta was elected as president of the JSBTC Women's Federation, with executive members, June Ikuta, Hiroko Yoshihara, Amy Nakamatsu, and Myra Takasaki.

Toronto Buddhist Temple is the site of the 2011 annual general meeting.

More detailed highlights will be prepared for the next Hikari.





# BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

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

## 2010 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.: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

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!

### ATTENTION DONORS

The Finance Committee is trying streamline the donation process! To that end, we kindly request that, whenever possible, please make your donations with a cheque (instead of cash). This would greatly assist and streamline our bookkeeping efforts and, more importantly, ensure the amount of your donation is recorded accurately. Also, we will be counting and depositing donations on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month. Those donations received on or before the 3rd Sunday of the month will be recorded in the next month's Hikari. Those donations received after the 3rd Sunday will be featured in the subsequent month's Hikari. Official tax receipts can be issued by the BTSA for any charitable donation.

### Memorial Donations

April 2010

- Hideo & June Hinatsu
- Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
- Shig & Katie Nakagawa
- Teiji Nakamura
- Lilly Oishi
- Ken & Nancy Setoguchi
- Tomiko Sugimoto
- David Takeda
- Elaine Tanaka
- Mas Terakita

**Total - \$1,850.00**

### Shotsuki Hoyo

April 2010

- Chiduka Hamabata
- Janet Hinatsu
- Marie Hirashima
- Ayako Imahashi
- Ted & Sue Koyata
- Kay Maruno
- Karen Masuda
- Irene Masuda
- Yuse & Chiyomi Matsuno
- Larry Nakahama
- Tosh Nakahama
- Arlene Oishi
- Joyce Oishi
- Lilly Oishi
- Sheila Oishi
- Peter Oka
- Roy & Pat Sassa
- Dawn Sugimoto
- Fumi Sugimoto
- Nobs & Kaz Sugimoto
- Robert & Judy Takaguchi
- Toshiko Takeda
- Glen & Pam Tanaka
- Masaye Tanaka
- Morison Tanaka
- Toshiko Tanaka
- Cliff & Mary Thomas
- Joe & Sumi Tomiyama
- Ken & Hiroko Yoshihara

**Total - \$2,158.00**

### Hanamatsuri Donations

**Total - \$7,775.00**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Obituaries

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

**Mr. Shoji Maruno (82) Mar 27, 2010**

**Mrs. Reiko Julia Nakahama (81) Apr 2, 2010**

**Choir Bottle Drive** will be held Monday, May 17. Save your empties until then or drop them off at the temple anytime.  
Contact: Katie Nakagawa 327-4296 or katiinak@shaw.ca

**Spring Bake Sale and Bazaar** originally slated for Saturday, May 29 has been re-scheduled for November and will be chaired by Brenda Oishi.

### 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.

**The Temple Library in the Board Room awaits organization,** but members are welcome to check out any titles they wish. A recent addition is "Now Is The Moment", a softcover book, donated by its author, Robert Hironaka.

**The annual Picnic** is scheduled for Sunday, June 20 at the John Martin Recreation Centre, Pavan Park. We have the compound from 9am to 3pm. Service begins at 10:30 followed by a Potluck with Rice, Kentucky Fried Chicken and soft drinks provided.

**The Bon Odori and Bazaar** will be held at Galt Gardens on July 17 (Obon Service on July 18). If you are interested in helping with the planning, please contact lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

### Monto Shikisho For Sale

\$30.00

### Onenju (Ojuzu) For Sale

New Onenju from Japan are available. (\$15 for male onenju. \$18 and \$20 for female onenju)

### SUNDAY SERVICES DURING THE SUMMER

There will be Sunday Services throughout July and August at the regular time of 10:30 am. The service will be more informal (no chairperson) beginning with a selected chant followed by a shorter dharma talk then tea/cookies (when available). Sensei will be available for all Sundays with the exception of those occasions when he is required for cemetery visitations and for the Obon Service on July 18th.

### Cemetery Visitation during Obon season

July 4 (Sun)	11am Brooks Cemetery and Obon Service at Heritage Motel
July 11 (Sun)	10 am Magrath 11am Temple Hill
July 18 (Sun)	1 pm Mt. View Cemetery 2:30 pm Obon Service at BTSA
Aug 1 (Sun)	1 pm Taber Cemetery



BTSA Picnic in June



Bon Odori in July

## 2010 Buddhist Memorial Service

### 仏教徒の年忌法要

#### Year of Death (死亡年)

2009	First annual memorial	.....1 year from death
2008	3rd	.....2 full years from death
2004	7th	.....6 full years from death
1998	13th	.....12 full years from death
1994	17th	.....16 full years from death
1986	25th	.....24 full years from death
1978	33rd	.....32 full years from death
1961	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.

## Japanese Lesson:

### How do you say this in Japanese?

What is your name?

(Anata no) namae wa nan desu ka?

My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

Watashi (no namae) wa \_\_\_\_\_ desu.  
(your name)

## Kanji Corner

 Hana はな Flower			

7 strokes

Combines 艹 (Kusa-grass) and 化 (henka-transformation). Together it means: "Grass or plants transform into beautiful flowers."

"Hana" also means, "nose" but the kanji for "nose" is 鼻

## PROGRAMS open to the community

**Gentle Yoga for Seniors** with Val Kunimoto continues to May 18.

**Naikan:** gentle art of self-reflection through journal writing and meditation. Spring session completed.

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Study Class

Wednesdays, 10:30am to 1:00pm

Please join anytime. Everyone is welcome!

### \*Study/Discussion Group

Sundays right after the morning chanting (Shoshinge). The purpose of meeting is to deepen our understanding and appreciation of Buddha's teachings, study the Dharma and facilitate discussion. Please contact Renae Barlow (renaeb@telus.net) or Rev. Izumi 382.7024

### BTSA Japanese Conversational Language

Rev. Izumi

Beginner Level

Saturdays 10 - 11 am, BTSA Temple

Have fun speaking Japanese. Plus, learn some Kanji for everyday use and its related meaning to Buddhism.

Contact: Denise Takao

detakao@telus.net or (403)381-1187

### Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Will take a practice break until June 3

Thursdays 7 - 8:30 pm

Please contact Katie Nakagawa

403. 327.4296 or katientak@shaw.ca

### Tonarigumi

Tuesdays 12 - 3 pm

### Taiko Class

Tuesdays 7 - 8:30 pm

Please contact David Tanaka

403.330.1548 or david@eyesquared.com

### The Lethbridge Karaoke Club

Will resume Wed, October 13, 2010

### Momiji Dancers

Mondays, 2:30 - 4:30 pm

*In this life no matter how much pity and sympathy we may feel for others, since our compassion has its limits, we cannot help another as thoroughly and consistently as we wish.*

*Thus, only the saying of Nembutsu manifests the complete and thoroughgoing compassion which is true, real and sincere.*

*Shinran Shonin*





# HAPPY HANAMATSURI

April 11, 2010



**An Invitation**  
**Sunday, May 9, 2010**

The Dharma class will celebrate Mother's Day by hosting a catered lunch after service for parents and grandparents. Hope to see you there!

**Canadian Tire Dollars PLEASE!**

The Dharma class will be collecting Canadian Tire Dollars to use toward outdoor equipment and toys. Please bring in your dollars by May 9 (Mother's Day) and drop them off in the marked purple box in the BTSA kitchen.

We appreciate it!



# May & June 2010 Schedule

# 五月と六月(2010年)の予定表

**Chanting (Shoshinge) starts at 9:40am** (Study/Discussion group will be held following Regular Chanting). Everyone welcome!

**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
MAY							Chow Mein Supper 1
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Monthly Memorial Service 2	2:30pm Momiji Dancers 3	Gentle Yoga 12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko 4	10:30am Study Class 5			
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service 9	2:30pm Momiji Dancers 10	Gentle Yoga 12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko 11	10:30am Study Class 12	7pm Board Meeting 13		10am Japanese Conversation 14
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Gotane (Shinran Shonin Birthday) 降誕会 16	1pm Bottle Drive 2:30pm Momiji Dancers 17	Gentle Yoga 12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko 18	10:30am Study Class 19			10am Japanese Conversation 21
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service 23 30	2:30pm Momiji Dancers 24 31	12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko 25	10:30am Study Class 26			10am Japanese Conversation 28 29

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JUNE				10:30am Study Class 1	7pm SAB Choir 2		10am Japanese Conversation 3
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Monthly Memorial Service 6	2:30pm Momiji Dancers 7	12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko 8	10:30am Study Class 9	7pm SAB Choir 10		10am Japanese Conversation 11
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service 13	2:30pm Momiji Dancers 14	12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko 15	10:30am Study Class 16	7pm SAB Choir 17		10am Japanese Conversation 18
	10:30am Service at Pavan Park followed by BTS Picnic 20	2:30pm Momiji Dancers 21	12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko 22	10:30am Study Class 23	7pm SAB Choir 24		10am Japanese Conversation 25
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service 27	2:30pm Momiji Dancers 28	12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko 29	10:30am Study Class 30			