

Hikari the Light



May 2011

Uncertainty Regardless of how momentary, there is no doubt that we exist. We must not let even a fraction of this time escapes us – the sacredness of life thus becomes apparent. Our grief is not that life is short, but that we are unable to live our momentary life well ...

Takeko Kujo, Mother of Buddhist Women's Organization

Some time ago, I shared with you through the Hikari some incidents which happened to my family last year.

Some of you may remember that our second daughter, Betty, who lives in Portland, Oregon, had a miscarriage. Betty is now expecting another baby at the end of next month. The other day, my wife phoned her. She called Betty's cell phone but her husband, Geoff, answered instead. My wife thought this was strange. Then Geoff hesitantly told my wife, "I am at the hospital and Betty is going to have surgery." "What? What happen to her?" she asked. Then she was told that Betty fell down the stairs to the outside garage and broke her leg. The doctor told Geoff that the baby was fine but Betty needed surgery. "So, we are at the hospital right now," Geoff said. We understood later that Betty had broken her right leg in three places. My wife left for Portland shortly thereafter to help Betty and her family.

Our life is really unpredictable. We make a plan, a plan for the next month or for the next year. But we do not know what will happen even tomorrow or the next moment. There is a Japanese expression, "Issun saki-mo yami", meaning "the darkness even in immediate future." In old English expression it might be translated, "Thou

knowest not what a day may bring forth." It is universal that our life is unpredictable and uncertain. If everything in our lives goes smoothly as we plan we are really fortunate. But things do not go that way. I have never heard of anyone whose life has had no problems at all. We should really appreciate it when things in our life are in order. We should be grateful for the life of peace and quiet.

There is a story. One day a middle-aged man visited a temple priest and asked him to write a wise saying for him, something for his daily reminder. The priest struck a pose, then took a brush and wrote on a piece of paper with India ink: grand parents die, parents die and children die. The man looked at it and complained, saying he wanted some words that made him happy. The priest, again, made a little pause, then wrote on another piece of paper: children die, parents die and grandparents die. Showing this to the man, the priest asked the man which writing he wanted to take. The man understood what the priest was telling him. Nodding his head to himself, the man bowed deeply and received the second paper.

Our life is unpredictable. The recent disaster in Japan teaches us all the reality of life. It is like a flower which is scattered at any moment by the wind of uncertainty. "The color of flowers does not last a hundred days." Yes, this is true, but even the flower itself does not last a hundred days. Still, in the midst of uncertainty, we see the flower blooms with all its might and in all its beauty, with each moment

supported by countless conditions, both visible and invisible. Listening to Amida's light of wisdom and compassion we too must live each day to its fullest, with gratitude and joy.

Namo Amida Butsu,
Yasuo Izumi, Minister of BTSA

一日一訓の日めくりカレンダーに「背後の力、背後の大悲を信ずる」とありました。ここにある、「信ずる」とは目が開く、目覚めるというような意味でしょう。「硬く信じ込む」というような事ではありません。私たちを包んでいる大きな力、大きなやさしさ、に気づいていくということではないでしょうか。私たちの人生は、自分の思いどおりに何でも進んで行く、というようなものではありません。祖父母が死に、父母が死に、子供が死ぬ、と言うのは一応の順序であります。子供が死に、父母が死に、祖父母が死ぬ、という悲劇は度々あることです。一寸先は闇と言われるほどに、何が起こるか判断のつかない人生です。思いどおりに行かない日々の生活を人生と呼ぶのでしょうか。まことに、不可解な世界をお互い生きているのです。人生を80年も、90年も生きてこられた方々に訊ねれば、それが本当であることは、すぐに分かります。このような根本的な苦悩をもって生きる私たちに、もう一つの大きな世界を示してくださいのが、仏法

〔仏教〕でありましょう。仏法は、苦悩する私たちの後ろにあって、常に、私たちをささえ、つつんでいて下さるのです。いよいよ、み教えに耳を傾けていきましょう。

合掌 泉康雄

B TSA Minister: REV. YASUO IZUMI
403.382.7024 • yasuo123@shaw.ca
470 - 40th Street South
Lethbridge, AB T1J 3Z5
403.327.1260
www.theB TSA.com

BTSA NOTES

Our spring chow mein supper comes up on May 14 and once again we're counting on volunteers to help out en masse for this major fund-raiser. Judy Takaguchi has agreed to chair the event, reprising the great job she did on the fall supper last October. We will need help on May 12 and 13, starting at 8 a.m. to prepare ingredients for the supper. Please bring your knives and cutting boards to supplement the supplies at the temple. Then, we'll look forward to a great turnout on Saturday for the supper itself.

All 2,000 tickets have been distributed and, as in the past, we're keeping fingers crossed for good weather to make the drive-through smooth for our customers.

With proceeds from the April 30 bake sale for the Japan Disaster Relief Fund still to be counted, the gross as of mid-April stood at \$22,457.50. The board will decide which registered Canadian charity the monies will go to. A source at Charities Directorate of the Canadian Revenue Agency informed us that Japan has not formally requested help from the Canadian Government so Canada has neither named a registered charity in Japan nor set up a matching fund program as it did for Haiti last year.

Besides generous donations at the special March 27 memorial for the victims of the earthquake/tsunami, additional donations have been received at the April monthly memorial service and Hanamatsuri. Mailed donations come trickling in as well.

More than \$5,300 were added during the udon/movie night on April 2 through donations and \$1,070 in supper receipts. Our thanks to all those who prepared the delicious udon supper and served it, and to those who donated to the fund thus far.

Hanamatsuri on April 10 featured guest speaker Tomofumi Fujii sensei of Toronto Buddhist Temple. Sensei's morning nenju-repair workshop attracted a half-dozen members eager to put together broken nenju. Our thanks to Fujii sensei and his wife, Naoko, who patiently taught us tricks to repair our ojuzu.

Thanks, too, to the Toban 2 members who prepared a tasty supper, and to the Dharma students for leading in singing happy birthday to the Buddha, then distributing pieces of the cake on the occasion.

The Board at its April meeting approved the purchase of a new temple automobile, a Nissan Sentra from our auto dealer neighbor, McDonald Nissan, at a cost of \$20,246. The old 2005 Pontiac Grand-Am with 230,000 kilometres was showing its age, requiring major repairs not worth its value. Pontiac had gone defunct in the meantime, further depreciating the value. Funds for the car had been set aside in the temple's capital account earmarked for equipment replacement.

The Board also struck a Finance Committee charged with finding and hiring a bookkeeper to look after temples financial matters. This will be on a contract basis and we will still require a treasurer as a Board director. The considerable workload reflecting the widening operation of the temple has grown to a point where the board believed it necessary to provide relief and assistance to the treasurer. More details of the pending arrangement will be in the next Hikari.

In other board matters:

- Sway Nishimura agreed to chair the Religious Committee;
 - Eichi Tanaka joined Sylvia Oishi as the second BTSA representative to the JSBTC annual general meeting in Toronto. Donna Dubbelboer and Sumie Tsukishima also attended for the parallel JSBTC Women's Federation annual general meeting;
 - the contract with BFI for waste removal was renewed for another year;
 - information about the sale of a commemorative stamp set for the Shinran 750th Memorial was received, inviting purchases before a May 12 deadline. A sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the multipurpose room;
 - an Alberta Health Services circular advised us of food safety training for volunteers at community and special events, on June 8 from 9 to 12 noon at the Lethbridge Community Health Office, Room A132. Please see the flyer posted in the multipurpose room if you're interested in pre-registering and participating.
- Reminder: board minutes are all open to members and are available in binders kept in the board room. Please feel free to peruse them as you wish.

Akira Ichikawa

CHAIR SCHEDULE May & June 2011

May 01 REGULAR
Chair: Akira Ichikawa
Audio: Sway Nishimura

May 08 SHOTUSKI
Chair: Reiko Takeyasu
Audio: Tak Okamura

May 15 REGULAR
Chair: Jack Nagai
Audio: Roland Ikuta

Mar 22 REGULAR
Chair: Florence Senda
Audio: Robert Takaguchi

Mar 29 REGULAR
Chair: Katie Nakagawa
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Jun 05 SHOTSUKI
Chair: Robert Takaguchi
Audio: Tak Okamura

Jun 12 REGULAR
Chair: Renae Barlow
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Jun 19 REGULAR, BTSA Picnic
Chair: Roland Ikuta
Audio: Roy Sassa

Jun 26 REGULAR
Chair: Joyce Shigehiro
Audio: Tak Okamura

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

Toban Schedule

Please help out anytime you are available but especially when your Toban is scheduled.

May Toban 4

June Toban 3

July Toban 1

Toban 2: Thank you so much for the wonderful meal, so well prepared and served for Hanamatsuri. Our appreciation to Joy Saruwatauri for the lapel flowers and table bouquets and to those who prepared and set up the najjin. Thanks to those who returned on Monday to prepare and set up the funeral, then two Mondays later do the same for a second funeral. It was a busy month for the toban and the hard work behind all the temple functions is much appreciated. Thanks also to those from other Toban groups who helped out.

Toban 3 Major event in June is the Annual Potluck Picnic, Jun 19 at the Rotary Picnic Shelter, Lethbridge Sports Park.

Toban 4 will be up for the month of **May** and will be working with the Dharma class and teachers for the Parents Day Lunch on May 29. New coordinators for Toban 4 are Keiko Tsukishima, Judy Fukushima, Noriko Oga, and Betty Taniguchi, along with leader, Jan Okamura. Advisers are: Jean Oga and Sachi Taguchi.

Soup Kitchen Schedule will be coordinated by Toban 1 on May 23.

Toban 1 is up for the month of July when our major events will be the Bon Odori and O Bon service and supper, July 16 and 17.

The BTSA Survey

So far we have received 63 of the 225 surveys that were sent out (28%). A summary of the results was presented to the board of directors at the last board meeting on April 13th. Some of the main ideas that came from the survey were:

- 1) The need to consider transportation for seniors.
- 2) Develop more activities for youth and young adults.
- 3) Invite guest speakers to Sunday service, other events and discussion groups.
- 4) Utilize the media to promote special events.
- 5) Most people prefer the Hikari or email to receive information about upcoming events.

Of the many useful suggestions, the membership committee chose to develop the following programming ideas first:

- 1) A guest lecture series on Friday nights. There would be 3 - 4 sessions during the year with specific topics in Buddhism followed by a discussion group.
- 2) Investigate the feasibility of having transportation for seniors once per month (Shotuski or special services).
- 3) Better utilization of the BTSA website.

The Survey feedback provided great information about the current use of our temple as well as useful suggestions on areas that we need to work on in order to improve the functioning of the temple. I would like to thank Lila Ho Takeda for the work she put into creating and summarizing the results of the survey. Thank you to all who returned their survey and for providing their input.

Roland Ikuta

Cemetery Visitation during Obon season

July 3 (Sun)	11am Brooks Cemetery Obon Service at Heritage Motel
July 10 (Sun)	10 am Magrath • 11am Temple Hill
July 17 (Sun)	1 pm Mt. View Cemetery 2:30 pm Obon Service at BTSA
July 24 (Sun)	1 pm Taber Cemetery

2011 Buddhist Memorial Service

仏教徒の年忌法要

Year of Death (死亡年)

2010	First annual memorial1 year from death
2009	3rd2 full years from death
2005	7th6 full years from death
1999	13th12 full years from death
1995	17th16 full years from death
1987	25th24 full years from death
1979	33rd32 full years from death
1962	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.

2011 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

LET'S EXPAND THE CIRCLE OF THE DHARMA!

Memorial Donations

April 2011

Roy & Nancy Adachi
Rita Ritsuko & John M Aoki
Sunao & Kaye Ayukawa
Gordon & Brenda Boras
Henning & Astrid Christensen
Marinus & Jantina Ekkel
H Fujimagari
Kumi Fujimoto
Judy Fukushima
Shinako (Sheila) Higa
Janet Hinatsu
Marie Y Hirashima
Jim & Aya Hironaka
Tomi Hisaoka
Violet Horii
M & Patsy-Rose Hoshiko
Akira & Lorita D. Ichikawa
Yoshiye Ikebuchi
Frank & Dimples Inaba
Fumi Inaba
Judy M. Irvine
Koji & Sumiye Itaya
Mitsuyoshi Ito
Y Ann Johnson
Tom & Lily Kaga

John Kamitomo
Sadae Kanegawa
Etsuko Karaki
Irene Karia
Isamu & Sharon Kawade
Takeshi & Sue Koyata
H Kubo
Ken & Amy Kurio
David Major & Laverne Hamabata
Kay K. Matsuda
Joyce Miyashita
Aiko Mori
Hugh & Hiroko Mori
Mori Richard & Judy
Jack & Rie Nagai
William T. & Setsuko Nagai
Harry W. & Beverly Nagata
Ken & Vickie Nakagama
Shig & Katie Nakagawa
Tosh Nakahama
George Nakatsuru
Roy & Minnie Nakatsuru
Saburo & Kimino Nishi
May Nishikawa
Anita Nishimura
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
Norreen Nishiyama
Richard Oga

Ken & Bonnie Ohashi
Mrs. Alice Ohashi
Frank & Kimi Ohno
Kaz & Setsuko Ohno
May Ohno
Kimio Oikawa
Uichi Oikawa
Hideko Oishi
Dr Yoshiyuki Okamura
& Jean Okamura
Tak & Jan Okamura
Setsuko Okuma
Yumiko Osaka
Mr & Mrs R Sameshima
Tosh & Joyce Saruwatari
Roy & Pat Sassa
Florence Senda
Roy & Kyoko Senda
Bob & Eiko Shigehiro
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
Toshino Shigemi
Yoshiye Shirakawa
Nobuko Shono & Mary Shono
Tomiko Shono
Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
Miyo Sunada
Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
Tom & Tsuyako Tajiri
Kazuko Takaguchi
Robert & Judy Takaguchi
J.H. & May Takahashi
Fugi Takeda
Toshiko Takeda
Reiko Takeyasu
Elaine Tanaka
Glen & Pamela Tanaka
Morison Tanaka
Bob & Shirley Taniguchi
Sam & Betty Taniguchi
Jean Tatebe
Bill & June Terakita
Mas Terakita
Bill Teshima
Clifford & Mary Thomas
George Tokuda
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Yuki & Aiko Tomiyama
Tak & Yoko Tsujita
Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima
Nobby & Rose Yamashita
Minoru Yoshida
Ken & Ruby Yoshioka

Total \$3,738.30

Shotsuki Hoyo

April 2011

Dick Adachi
Roy Asato
Chiduka Hamabata
Nadine Hamabata
Janet Hinatsu
Tucker Hironaka
Ayako Imahashi
Bob & Sharon Imahashi
Gene & Shannon Kawade
Takeshi & Sue Koyata
Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
Shig & Katie Nakagawa
Teiji Nakamura
Arlene Oishi
Lilly Oishi
Sheila Oishi
Peter Oka
Roy & Pat Sassa
Yoshiye Shirakawa
Fumi Sugimoto
Hajime Harry Sugimoto
Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
Tomiko Sugimoto
Kazuko Takaguchi
Robert & Judy Takaguchi
Toshiko Takeda
Glen & Pamela Tanaka
Morison Tanaka
Toshiko Tanaka
Clifford & Mary Thomas
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama

Total \$1,935.00

Hanamatsuri Donations 2011

Total \$7,495.00

Anyone wishing his/her name not be acknowledged in print in the donation lists, please inform us so it may be omitted. Thank you.

REGULAR EVENTS

Morning Chanting

9:40am Sundays (except first Sunday of the month, please note calendar)

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Thursdays 7 – 8:30 pm

New members always welcome!

Please contact Katie Nakagawa 403.327.4296 or katiinak@shaw.ca

Tonari Gumi

Tuesdays 12 – 3pm

Taiko Class

Tuesdays 7 - 8:30pm

Please contact David Tanaka 403.330.1548

or david@eyesquared.com

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club

Wednesdays 1:30 – 4pm

All interested are welcome to join or just listen and enjoy

Minyo (Folk Dance)

Wednesday, May 4 @ 6:30pm

Contact: Aya Hironaka at 403.752.4065

Bon Odori Practice

Will commence Wednesday, June 1 at 6:30 and meet weekly.

Contact: Aya Hironaka at 403.752.4065

PROGRAMS

Gentle Yoga for Seniors is running March 29 to May 10.

Thanks to Val Kunimoto for your inspired leadership.

Aiki Breathing Class

“Breathing, Stretching, Moving”

Spring session began April 18 and will run from 11am to 12pm for six sessions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wedding

Evan Reid Helsing & Nicole Marie Bailleul Apr 18, 2011

Condolences

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

Hisao Tatebe (97) Apr 3, 2011

Takumi Oga (86) Apr 5, 2011

Kiyoshi Moriyama (84) Apr 17, 2011

Tadao Kawasaki (83) Apr 20, 2011

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,

403.327.3110 or sumi.tomiyama@gmail.com

Our thanks to Keiko Tsukishima and Kaz Takaguchi for handling this over the last year.

HANAMATSURI 2011



DATES TO REMEMBER

Chow Mein Supper Drive-through May 14

Parents Day Lunch May 29

Movie Night at the Temple June 3

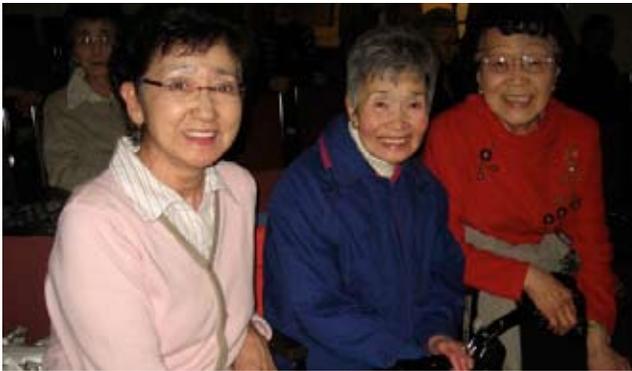
Annual BTSA Picnic June 19
Rotary Picnic Shelter, Lethbridge Sports Park

JAPAN DISASTER RELIEF FUND Udon and Movie Night at the temple

The April 2 Udon Dinner and Movie Night was dedicated as a fund raising event for the victims of the Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan. Despite inclement weather 107 people turned out for the event. With the assistance of 20 volunteers, over \$5000 was raised between the Udon tickets and donations. The entire proceeds will go towards the Japan Disaster via a Canadian charitable organization. Jan Okamura, Jean Oga and Sachi Taguchi led the noodle making and udon and tempura preparation, making sure the food came out tasting delicious. After supper, the movie, "The Cup" was shown which was about how World Cup fever entered a Tibetan Buddhist Monastery.

I would like to thank all of the people who came out to prepare the meal and to those who participated and donated so generously. Look for the notice of the next movie night, which is to be held on Friday, June 3rd at 7 p.m.

Roland Ikuta



Movie Night at the Temple

Saturday June 3, 2011 • 7pm
FIREFLY DREAMS, Rated PG
Snacks served after the movie

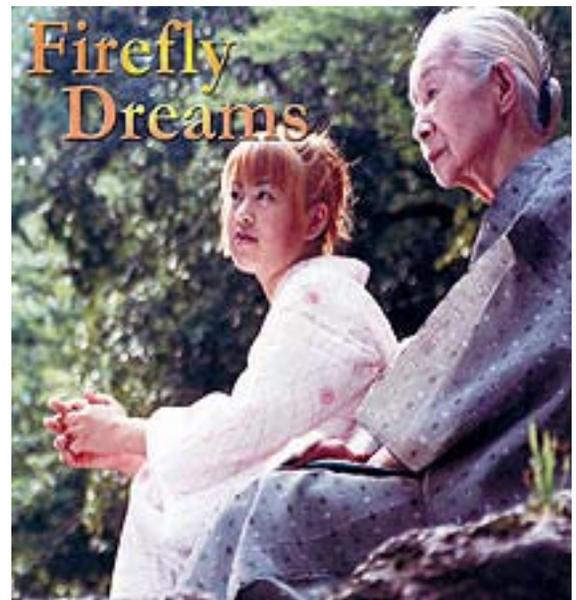
Naomi, a seventeen year old city brat from Nagoya, finds her world turned upside down after the breakup of her parents' marriage. Packed off to the country, she reluctantly works at her aunt's inn until being asked to care for Mrs. Koide, an aging relative with Alzheimer's disease. At first, Naomi dislikes looking after the old woman, but over the course of the summer, the two develop an extraordinary friendship that transcends age and experience.

Winner of best film award at the Hawaii film festival in 2005.

"A gentle reminder of the cinema's golden years"

– Mark Schilling Japan times

"Astutely crafted... with strong human appeal and emotional resonance"





THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA children & youth dharma classes

April Review

The month of April was busy for the Dharma class. Joe Tomiyama planned a lesson in origami. Dharma students performed at the Hanamatsuri celebrations. Juli Talerico made a mandala art project with the kids. Thank you to our guest teachers for their time and exposure to new lessons and fun activities.



Thank you Sumiko Tomiyama for assisting.



Joe Tomiyama teaches origami.



*Hanamatsuri:
pouring sweet
tea over the baby
Buddha and
celebrating with
birthday cakes.*



Juli Talerico has the kids draw small mandalas that they make into buttons. What a treat!



The group works on a mandala of shells, rocks, beans and lentils, creating an impermanent mandala. Thank you to Juli's husband, Dan, who provided mandala-making music.



May & June 2011 Schedule 5月と6月の予定表

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	10:30am Regular Service 1	11am Aiki Breathing class 2	10:30am Gentle Yoga 12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 3	6:30pm Minyo Dance 4	6:30pm Membership committee 7pm SAB Choir 5	6	7
	10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service 8	11am Aiki Breathing class 9	10:30am Gentle Yoga 12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 10	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSa Board Meeting 11	No Choir 12	13	Chow Mein Supper Drive-thru 14
	10:30am Service Gohtane (Shinran Shonin's Birthday) 15	11am Aiki Breathing class 16	12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 17	1:30pm Karaoke 18	7pm SAB Choir 19	20	21
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service 22	11am Aiki Breathing class Soup Kitchen 23	12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 24	1:30pm Karaoke 25	Intro to Buddhism Winston Churchill No Choir 26	7pm SAB Choir 27	28
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service Parents' Day Lunch 29	11am Aiki Breathing class 30	12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 31				

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JUNE				1:30pm Karaoke 6:30pm Bon Odori practice 1	No Choir 2	7pm Movie Night at the Temple 3	4
	10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service 5	11am Aiki Breathing class 6	12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 7	1:30pm Karaoke 6:30pm Bon Odori practice 7pm BTSa Board 8	7pm SAB Choir 9	10	11
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service 12	13	12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 14	1:30pm Karaoke 6:30pm Bon Odori practice 15	7pm SAB Choir 16	17	18
	10:30am Regular Service at BTSa Picnic, Leth Sports Park 19	20	12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 21	1:30pm Karaoke 6:30pm Bon Odori practice 22	7pm SAB Choir 23	24	25
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service 26	27	12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 28	1:30pm Karaoke 6:30pm Bon Odori practice 29	7pm SAB Choir 30		