



May 2012

NEMBUTSU embraces all

It is said that there are 84,000 teachings or paths in Buddhism to attain enlightenment, true awakening of life. This means that the door of enlightenment is opened to everyone. No one is rejected because he or she does not believe this or that.

The written form of these teachings or paths are called sutras and compiled in book form. The volume of all sutras is about the same size as 60 volumes of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. Christianity has two books, the Old and New Testaments called a Bible. Islam has the Koran. Neither is that thick, each less than a single volume of Encyclopaedia Britannica.

There are at least two reasons why are there so many sutras, sacred teachings, in Buddhism: First, the historical Buddha lived a long life of 80 years. After his enlightenment at the age of 35 years, he was able to share his experience of enlightenment with others for 45 long years. Secondly, the way he shared the teaching. It is called obyo yoyaku (to give medicine according to a patient) or taiki seppo (explain the teaching according to a listener's capacity). Since each listener has a different background, character, ability, age, gender and so on, the contents of the teaching naturally varied. Therefore, the Buddha first carefully examined the person who wants to listen to the teaching, the dharma, and then spoke accordingly. Thus, the ways in which Sakyamuni Buddha benefits beings differ according to their natures.

On our part, it is important to know to whom or to what kind of person the Buddha expanded the teaching. Furthermore, listeners also must examine what sort of person he or she is. Examination

and investigation of self is always an important element to listen to the dharma.

Among the many paths the Buddha taught, Shinran Shonin (1173-1263) followed the path of the Nembutsu. He did not proudly say "I chose this path." but rather he humbly said "I simply follow my teacher, Venerable Honen (1133 - 1212) who showed me the path for my spiritual liberation." And venerable Honen said the Nembutsu path is selected by the Buddha for me.

According to venerable Honen, the Nembutsu means "Recitation of the Name of Amida, Namo Amida Butsu." Venerable Honen encouraged his followers to recite the name of Amida. He firmly believed that there is no other way than reciting the Nembutsu because it is in accordance with Amida's compassionate Vow. Based on this, Shinran Shonin said that the Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu, is the urgent voice calling all sentient beings to true awakening. He appreciated that Amida, truth, will enlighten him.

The Nembutsu that Shinran Shonin followed does not discriminate between young and old, rich and poor, man and woman, Japanese and non-Japanese because it is a compassionate call to liberate all beings from the life of delusion, the ocean of birth-and-death, to enlightenment.

Some people think that it is impossible for non-Japanese to appreciate the depth of Jodo Shinshu. But 40 years ago, I met a Caucasian who deeply appreciated the Nembutsu teaching and even became a Jodo Shinshu minister. Rev. Phillip Eidmann was my mentor at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, California. He was a brilliant, humble and kind individual of the dharma. Rev. Eidmann was confined to a wheel chair for many years and passed away in 1998. I remember every time while we

were chanting Shoshinge (Song of True Awakening of Amida) written by Shinran Shonin, he would raise his voice high at one particular line and nod in deep appreciation and gratitude.

The line reads:

The person burdened with extreme blind passions should simply say the Name; Although I too am within Amida's grasp, Blind passions obstruct my eyes and I cannot see the light; Nevertheless, great compassion is untiring and illumines me always.

The followers of Jodo Shinshu say the Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu in gratitude and joy responding to the great compassion of Amida which embraces all.

In Gassho,
Yasuo Izumi, Minister
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

春の訪れ

やっと春が訪れました。不順な天気が続きましたから、「やっと」という感じですね。春という漢字は「三人が太陽(日)」の下に集まっている姿を意味している、とされています。意味を知らされるだけでも暖かさを感じます。私たちに「春」を見ることはできません。しかし、花が咲き、小さな虫が大地から這い出し、鳥が鳴き、人々が太陽の暖かさを感じる、そこに春を知ることができます。

同じように、仏様の温かい心は目には見えません。目に見えないものは、頼りにならない、という方がおられます。しかし、長らく仏様の心を聞いてこられた人たちがおられます。その方たちは、悲喜ごもごもの人生の中で、合掌し、お念仏申してこられました。その方々を通して、仏様の心を、そこに知ることができます。目に見えないからこそ、本当に頼りになる、安らぎをもたらしてくれる、という世界もあります。仏教はそのような世界をわたしたちに示しているのではないのでしょうか。いよいよ仏心に耳を傾け、安心して、力強く日々を生かしていただきましょう。
合掌 泉康雄

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470-40 St S • Lethbridge, AB T1J 3Z5
403.327.1260 • www.theBTSA.com

BTSA NOTES

The spring chow mein supper highlights the month of May, with preparations set for the first week leading up to the supper on May 5, Saturday between 1 and 5 p.m. Please see a chow mein article elsewhere in this issue for preparation instructions.

Two thousand tickets have been distributed for the drive-through supper. Members with unsold tickets are asked to inform Pat Sassa or Jan Okamura, the co-chairs, about their ticket availability. There always are last-minute requests for them.

Next movie night will be a meal-movie combo on May 26, with a BBQ on bun sit-down meal scheduled for 6 p.m. and the movie, "Happy", beginning at 7:30 p.m. Please let Roland Ikuta (403-317-0078) know if you're planning to attend so we can get a count on numbers for the supper.

We had a great turnout for Hanamatsuri on April 8, with Michael Hayashi sensei of the Toronto Buddhist Temple giving the guest dharma message. Sensei reconnected with a number of friends he had made during his assignment to southern Alberta in the '90s. Attendees were treated to a delicious meal prepared by Toban 2. Thanks to all the hard-working volunteers and those who turned out for this important service commemorating the birth of the Buddha.

Thanks to Joy Saruwatari for preparing the lovely fresh-flower favors which were prominently displayed on attendees' lapels.

Please see Hanamatsuri photos elsewhere in this Hikari.

High winds dislodged a few shingles off the shed in the north parking lot, but thanks to Tak Okamura the damage has been repaired by a contractor.

At its monthly meeting on April 11, the board:

- discussed the possibility of establishing budget line items for capital equipment replacement costs, based upon estimates that were produced in 2009 by Harry Sugimoto;
- approved the purchase of \$315 worth of all-purpose cards with wisteria painted on them and sympathy cards from the JSBTC Women's Federation;
- was informed that about 75 extra hondo chairs stored in the back storage area were cleaned by personnel at the Lethbridge Correctional Institution as part of its service to the community;
- will seek clarification from the city fire department about a notice indicating the vents in our kitchen must be regularly cleaned by a professional certified to perform this job; and,
- will have on-going discussion with the Calgary temple about the future of the Alberta Buddhist Conference.

Members interested in perusing all board minutes are welcome to do so. Binders with the minutes are readily available in the board room.

Akira Ichikawa

MOVIE NIGHT AT THE TEMPLE



HAPPY
A Documentary
by award winning
director Roko Belic

SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2012

Supper at 6pm & Movie at 7:30pm

Special BBQ on a bun & baked beans

What makes people happy? Is it money, status or your relationships? Are there things that we can do to increase our happiness? What does this have to do with Buddhism? Come and see a very interesting movie and find out. Please call Roland (403-317-0078) or email rolikota@shaw.ca if you are planning to attend the supper. Please invite friends or relatives to what should be a thought provoking movie night.

HAPPY is a feature documentary that takes us on a journey from the swamps of Louisiana to the slums of Calcutta in a search of what really makes people happy. Combining powerful interviews with the leading scientists in happiness research and real life stories of ordinary and extraordinary people around the world, Happy uncovers the secrets behind our most treasured emotion.

CHAIR SCHEDULE May & June 2012

May 06 SHOTSUKI
Chair: Joyce Shigehiro
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

May 13
Chair: Deanna Jones
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

May 20
Chair: Roland Ikuta/kids
Audio: Sway Nishimura

May 27
Chair: Sheila Oishi
Audio: Roland Ikuta

Jun 03 SHOTSUKI
Chair: Sylvia Oishi
Audio: Tak Okamura

Jun 10
Chair: Pat Sassa
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Jun 17
Regular at Pavan Park, Picnic
Chair: Roland Ikuta/kids
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Jun 24
Chair: Florence Senda
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. Thank you.



PAUSE BEFORE LUNCH. Friends John Kamitomo, upper left in the back row, and Doug Higo, right front, assisted Toban 1 at the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen on April 4. Front from left, Peter Savage, Mae Ohno, Lilly Oishi, Sam Kounosu, and Doug. Back from left, John, Carol Sekiya, Aya Terashima, Akira Ichikawa, Reiko Takeyasu-Bolick and Kim Ohno.

Spring Chow Mein Supper – May 5

Preparations for the spring chow mein take-out supper will take place on May 3, with two shifts. The idea of the one-day preparation arose from the fall chow mein supper experience when much of the work had been completed on a single day.

The morning shift will run from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with the afternoon shift which overlaps a bit beginning at 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Co-chairs Jan Okamura and Pat Sassa look forward to having 15 volunteers from each of the four toban in the morning and 12 from each toban in the afternoon. They also request two pans of squares from Toban 1 and 3 for coffee breaks on Thursday and from Toban 2 and 4 for the coffee break on Saturday, the chow mein supper day.

Toban 1 will be cooking lunch on Thursday, and Debbie Friesen and her group will make sandwiches for lunch on Saturday. Assigned leaders will be coordinating various projects on the day of the dinner.

We look forward to everyone's cooperation and help at this major temple fund-raiser.



Mein making photos courtesy of Ralph Arnold

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.

May Toban 4
June Toban 1
July Toban 2

Thanks to **Toban 3** for all the activity in the April.

Soup Kitchen

Thanks to Lilly Oishi, Toban 1 and friends for lunch preparation on April 4.

Chow Mein Supper on May 5 begins at 8 a.m. and jobs have been "more or less" assigned and arrival times designated. It is requested that neither jewelry nor perfumes be worn so as not to leave any traces of scent nor foreign objects in the food.

Shop and Gift Cards

Please continue to support the 2015 World Buddhist World Buddhist Women's Convention in Calgary.

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 BSA 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!

Hanamatsuri Donations

April 2012

Roy & Nancy Adachi
Eiko Aoki
Rita & John Aoki
Richard & Valerie Boras
Eietsu Chiba
John & Donna Dubbelboer
Judy Fukushima
Dorene Gordon
Chiduka Hamabata
Nadine Hamabata
Terry Hanna & Sylvia Oishi
Shinako Higa
Shirley Higa
Janet Hinatsu
Marie Hirashima
Robert Hironaka
Tsuyoshi & Mariko Hironaka
Tomi Hisaoka

Terry Horii
Rumiko Ibuki
Tosh & Marian Ibuki
Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
Ayako Imahashi
Koji & Sumiye Itaya
Molly H. Ito
Tom & Lily Kaga
Sadae Kanegawa
Irene Karia
Akiko Kimoto
Hiroshi Kitagawa
Takeshi & Sue Koyata
Dr David Major
& Laverne Hamabata
Katoye Maruno
Kay K. Matsuda
May S. Matsumiya
Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
Kiyoshi & Marion Mori
Kay Kimie Moriyama
Jack & Rie Nagai

William T & Setsuko Nagai
Jim Nakagawa
Shig & Katie K Nakagawa
Tosh Nakahama
Teiji Nakamura
Roy & Minnie Nakatsuru
May Nishikawa
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
Mac & Reyko Nishiyama
Mitsuko Oga
Noriko Oga
Frank & Kimiko Ohno
Kaz & Setsuko Ohno
May Ohno
Kazumi Oikawa
Arlene Oishi & Jeff Coffman
Heidi Oishi
Lilly Oishi
Lisa Oishi
Sheila Oishi
Dr Y Okamura
& Miss Jean Okamura

Tak & Jan Okamura
Yumiko Osaka
Hisae Price
Tad & Chieko Sakaguchi
Tosh & Joyce Saruwatari
Gordon & Joy Saruwatari
Jiro & May Sasaki
Roy & Pat Sassa
Florence Senda
Ken & Nancy Setoguchi
Bob & Eiko Shigehiro
Joe & Mary Shigehiro
Joyce Shigehiro & Trevor Van Sluys
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
Takaaki & Hajime Shigemi
Toshino Shigemi
Tomiko Shono
Emily Stitt
Fumi Sugimoto
Hajime Harry Sugimoto
Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
Tomiko Sugimoto
Miyo Sunada
Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
Tom & Tsuyako Tajiri
Kazuko Takaguchi
Robert & Judy Takaguchi
Fugi Takeda
Toshiko Takeda
Reiko Takeyasu
Eichi & Betty Tanaka
Glen & Pamela Tanaka
Masaye Tanaka
Toshiko Tanaka
Bob & Shirley Taniguchi
Sam & Betty Taniguchi
Brenda & Lester Tanner
Amy & Masami Tashiro
Jean H. Tatebe
Mas Terakita
Akira Terashima
George Tokuda
Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Tak & Yoko Tsujita
Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima
Keiko Kay Tsukishima
Wayne & Amy Tsukishima

Total \$7,555.00

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.

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

April 2012

Chiduka Hamabata
Nadine Hamabata
Shinako Higa
Shirley Higa
Janet Hinatsu
Marie Hirashima
Ayako Imahashi
Gene & Shannon Kawade
Michie Kawasaki
Eileen Kunimoto
Dr David Major
& Laverne Hamabata
Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
Shig & Katie K Nakagawa
Teiji Nakamura
Arlene Oishi & Jeff Coffman
Joyce H. Oishi
Lilly Oishi
Sheila Oishi
Peter Oka
Hisae Price
Roy & Pat Sassa
Ken & Nancy Setoguchi
Emily Stitt
Dawn Sugimoto
Fumi Sugimoto
Hajime Harry Sugimoto
Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
Tomiko Sugimoto
Robert & Judy Takaguchi
Fugi Takeda
Toshiko Takeda
Bob & Shirley Taniguchi
Jean H. Tatebe
Clifford & Mary Thomas
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Keith & Kathleen Turnbull
K.K. & Hiroko Yoshihara

Total \$2,480.00

Other Donations

April 2012

Tucker Hironaka
Chizuko Kimura
Kay Kimie Moriyama
David & Wanda Okamura
Jim & Daisy Oshiro
Jagjit S. (Jack) Panesar
Roy & Pat Sassa
Colleen N Sekiya
Miyo Sunada
Jean H. Tatebe
Tak & Yoko Tsujita

Total \$995.00

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 Nakagawa 403. 327.4296 or katiinak@shaw.ca

May 10, 17, 24

Tonari Gumi

Tuesdays 12 - 3 pm

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

Minyo Dancers will meet Mondays through the month of May

Bon Odori practice will be held Mondays at 6:30 from June 4 through July 9. Men, women, children, parents, grandparents and community are welcome to attend and learn the dances and also to join us at the festive Bon Odori, July 14th.

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.

PROGRAMS

Gentle Yoga for Seniors finishes up spring session May 10. Next session starts in the fall. Register early to insure a spot.

"Breathing, Stretching, Moving" (Aiki Breathing Class) runs through the month of May.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bon Odori Committee will have its first planning meeting on Sunday, May 13 after service.

Parents Day Luncheon will be on Sunday May 27 held in conjunction with Toban 4 and the Dharma Classes.

The Nikkei Cultural Society of LA is sponsoring "Asian Heritage" month on Sunday May 20th at the Galt Museum from 10 to 4 pm. Currently, they are partnered with the Chinese, Bhutanese and Filipino Cultural groups. There will be entertainment concurrent with A/V showing and display tables. Admission is free.

Women's Federation Fundraiser

The Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Women's Federation (JSBTCWF) has a variety of cards for sale. Pictured are the "Thank You" notes in packages of 5 for \$6 and new series of all-purpose blank note cards with a drawing of a wisteria. The latter may be used for greetings, condolences or thank-yous. A new shipment of sympathy cards also have been received. Please see Donna Dubbelboer for prices and additional information.



Front



Back

Annual BTSA Picnic

June 17 • 10:30am Service

John Martin Recreation Area in Pavan Park

This is an early notice to remind members to note the date on your calendars. As usual, Izumi sensei will preside at the regular Sunday service at 10:30 a.m., after which a potluck lunch will be served. We have the site from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., so will try to have the gate open by 10 a.m. Games for the children and bingo for all, both with prizes, will be part of the Sunday outing. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the hoped-for warm June Sunday.

BUDDHIST Q & A

Does Buddhism have commandments?

No, we do not. Buddhism is not based on a hierarchical principle but a lateral one in which adherents try to follow ethical principles. These are called precepts and there are at least five for everyone to follow.

1. To avoid killing or harming living beings
2. To avoid stealing
3. To avoid sexual misconduct
4. To avoid lying
5. To avoid alcohol and other intoxicating drugs (Y. I.)



Photos courtesy of John Dubbelboer and Lorita Ichikawa



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.



HANAMATSURI 2012



UPCOMING EVENT

PARENT'S DAY Luncheon • May 27

We will have the Dharma class participate in some way for the luncheon. In the weeks prior, please join us in the Dharma room to brainstorm ideas.

BTSA PICNIC • June 17

Come join us for food, games and prizes. This year the playground should be open at the John Martin Recreation Area.

Schedule 光 May & June 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。

MAY: TOBAN 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko		10:25am Gentle Yoga		Spring Chow Mein Supper
		1	2	3	4	5
10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service 6	10:45am Aiki Breathing Minyo 7	12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 8	1:30pm Karaoke 7:30pm BTSA Board Meeting 9	10:25am Gentle Yoga 7pm SAB Choir 10		
		8	9	10	11	12
10 - 10:15am Dharma Study* (for new visitors) 10:30am Regular Service 13	10:45am Aiki Breathing Minyo 14	12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 15	1:30pm Karaoke 16	7pm SAB Choir 17		
		15	16	17	18	19
10:30am Gotan-e (Shinran Shonin's Birthday) Service 20	10:45am Aiki Breathing Minyo 21	12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 22	1:30pm Karaoke 23	7pm SAB Choir 24	Hikari article deadline 25	Movie Night at the Temple 6pm Supper 7:30pm Movie 26
		22	23	24	25	26
10 - 10:15am Dharma Study 10:30am Regular Service Parents Day Lunch 27	10:45am Aiki Breathing Minyo 28	12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 29	1:30pm Karaoke 30			
		29	30	31		

JUNE: TOBAN 1

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						2
10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service 3	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice 4	12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 5	1:30pm Karaoke 6			
		5	6	7	8	9
10 - 10:15am Dharma Study* (for new visitors) 10:30am Regular Service 10	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice 11	12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 12	1:30pm Karaoke 7:30pm BTSA Board Meeting 13			
		12	13	14	15	16
10:30am Annual Picnic (10:30am - Regular Service at Picnic Site) 17	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice 18	12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 19	1:30pm Karaoke 20			
		19	20	21	22	23
10 - 10:15am Dharma Study* (for new visitors) 10:30am Regular Service 24	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice Hikari article deadline 25	12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 26	1:30pm Karaoke 27			
		26	27	28	29	30