



Funeral Buddhism



Many people in Japan, in particular, have been thinking that Buddhism is for funerals. When a baby is born they go to Shinto shrine for the blessing. For the time of wedding, they ask a Shinto priest or go to a Christian Church. For funerals, they go to a Buddhist temple. This is a long accepted social pattern in Japan. Then, they conclude that Buddhism is for funerals, and only for funerals. They need a Buddhist temple and a minister for a funeral. They think sutra chanting is for the dead. Buddhism is necessary for them strictly for funeral and memorial services. This is the way many people in Japan think. They think that Buddhism is not much to do with living people. Such a negative way of thinking was brought even to Canada with Japanese immigrants.

Why do many Japanese think this way? The main reason lies with the influence of an old Japanese government policy. The Tokugawa government (1603-1868), in connection with its suppression of Christianity, required all Japanese to report to a Buddhist temple immediately when a death occurred and the dead be buried exclusively by Buddhist priests. Shinto regarded death, more or less, as unclean, evil or a curse.

Consequently, Buddhism became preoccupied with funerals and memorial services.

Historically speaking, however, the teaching of Buddha is fundamentally opposed to conducting funerals. When the historical Buddha, Sakyamuni Buddha, was dying at Kusinagara in India, one of his disciples asked the Buddha about how they should treat his funeral. The Buddha instructed: "You do not need to worry about it. Let the lay people treat it." "Furthermore", he said, "You who see merely my body do not truly see me. Only you who accept my teaching truly see me. After my death, the dharma shall be your teacher."

From the very beginning, Buddhism is the teaching for the living, not for the dead. The Buddha did not speak the dharma to the dead. Chanting of the sutra (written teaching) is not for the dead but for the living. It does not mean, however, the Buddha was indifferent about death and to those who experience death. Rather, he encouraged people to listen to the dharma, the truth of life, and to encounter Amida's boundless compassion in their lives.

There is no doubt that funeral and memorial services are important occasions for us. It is time to reflect of our own life and to appreciate the infinite connection with those who have gone before us in the light of Amida Buddha. I, as a Buddhist minister, always feel privileged to conduct the funeral and memorial services for sharing and learning the dharma together and live the precious life together.

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

み教を学ぶ

お経の中に「心口各異、言念無実」という言葉が出てきます。一見難しいような言葉ですが、その意味は「心と口がそれぞれ異なり、言うことと思っていることに真実がない」ということです。「あなたが言っている事と、思っている事は同じですか?その場限りの無責任な言葉ではないですか?自分の都合だけを考えて、言っていませんか?」ということです。大変厳しい言葉ですが、私たちの日常生活を振り返ってみると、「お経の言葉は、本当だなあ。。。と、うなずかざるを得ません。

人間はとかく、他と共にある、ということのを忘れ、自分の都合や自分の思いだけで生きています。そして、自分の都合や思いをあくまで押しとうそうとして、話をしていることがあります。「仏教を学ぶ」ということは、このような「自己中心」の自分が問題になっていくということなのでしょう。み教を学ぶ、ということとは「自分」を学ぶことなのです。「自分」を学ぶには、「仏様の心、願い」を聞くのが一番です。

「仏様の心、願い」とは、大慈悲心なり、といわれています。仏様とは、他の幸せ、安らぎを願って生きてくださる方、「働き」なのです。自己中心の殻の中で生きている私たちに、もっと大きな、広い、明るい世界があるのだよ、と働き、導いて下さるのです。このような「働き」に日々出遇っていくとき、私たちは、はじめて「自分」が知らされ、そこに、仏様に抱かれ、仏様の世界に帰っているという安らぎと喜びが恵まれてくるのです。 合掌 泉

BTSA NOTES

November begins with a busy week, starting with a mindfulness meditation course on Nov. 1 at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Six sessions will be held weekly through Dec. 6, and will be led by Dr. Rachael Crowder, a professor in the department of Social Work, University of Calgary, Lethbridge campus. There is a suggested donation of \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members.

A mein-making session is set for Nov. 2, this time in preparation for the annual Dharma Bake and Craft Sale scheduled for Dec. 1. As in September, we look forward to a huge turnout for this session. Similarly, strong member participation is sought for the bake sale when the mein noodles will go on sale along with other Japanese foods, pastries and craft items. Please see a related article on the bake sale in this Hikari.

The board approved the purchase of a second dough mixer, very much like the one BTSA received from the Coaldale temple when it disbanded, and will inaugurate it at this session. Thanks to Eichi Tanaka, Sway Nishimura and Robert Takaguchi for helping to move the heavy mixer and setting it up on the movable base that formerly held a mixer that was donated to the Honpa temple by Wayne Kwan.

The busy weekend continues Nov. 3 with a movie night featuring “The Cats of Mirikitani” which begins with a curry supper at 6 p.m. The movie is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Please contact Roland Ikuta (403-317-0078) if you want to attend the supper.

The packed first weekend of the month continues the second weekend with the annual Alberta Buddhist Conference, this year at the Calgary Buddhist Temple on Nov. 10. This year’s one-day conference features Christina Yanko-Ringle, a southern Albertan who earlier this year received tokudo in Kyoto, Japan, and the theme is “The ‘I’ in Amida.”

Arrangements for transportation to the conference were still being made and will be related to those who have signed up to attend. Please see the tentative schedule prepared by the Calgary temple elsewhere in this Hikari. Note that there is a \$25 conference charge to cover costs. Transportation costs, beyond the registration fee, will be announced once the arrangements are completed.

October’s major event, the fall chow mein supper, went off without a major hitch, and Judy Takaguchi who chaired it extends thanks to all the volunteers who spent several days preparing and helping on Oct. 13, the day of the supper. Please see a related article in this Hikari for a financial report, donations and photos. BTSA echoes Judy’s appreciation and expresses its gratitude to all those who helped out so tirelessly.

BTSA also restarted the Dharma Exchange following Sunday services and a four-session course on the principles of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Further, the Dharma Exchange following service also was reinstated during the month.

It’s never too early to have members consider a term on the temple board. Please see a related article in this Hikari.

As always, please keep in mind that all minutes of board meetings are available in the board room and open to any member wishing to peruse them. The board always invites comments from the membership.

Akira Ichikawa

CHAIR SCHEDULE Nov & Dec 2012

Nov 04 SHOTSUKI
Chair: Sylvia Oishi
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Nov 11
TBA

Nov 18
Chair: Roland Ikuta/Kids
Audio: Tak Okamura

Nov 25
Chair: Deanna Jones
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Dec 02 SHOTSUKI
Chair: Robert Takaguchi
Audio: John Dubbelboer

Dec 09
Chair: Pat Sassa
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Dec 16
Chair: Kate Ainscough
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Dec 23
NO SERVICE

Dec 30
NO SERVICE

Dec 31
New Year’s Eve Service
Joya-No-Kane: Nikka Yuko
Gardens

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



The guest speaker for ABC 2012 is Sensei Christina Yanko-Ringle of Alberta and of the Center for Buddhist Education (CBE) in Berkeley.

2012 ABC schedule at Calgary temple

The 2012 ABC on Nov. 10 (Saturday) will be at the Calgary Buddhist Temple, with guest speaker Sensei Christina Yanko-Ringle of Alberta and of the Center for Buddhist Education (CBE) in Berkeley. This years theme is "The 'I' in Amida."

As indicated in the BTSA Notes, final arrangements for transportation are being made and will be given to those planning to attend as soon as they are completed. One of the concerns has to do with the time element if BTSA members want to be back in Lethbridge at a reasonable hour. Tentatively, a late afternoon departure from Calgary is planned, thereby eliminating the possibility of joining Calgary members for the self-pay dinner described in the program.

(BTSA Board Chair's note: I hope the foregoing schedule meets the approval of those planning to attend. The plan is to leave Lethbridge early Saturday morning and return by 7 or 8 p.m.)

The host temple describes the one-day conference as "A day to explore our Buddhist understandings and to connect with others." There is a \$25 fee and self-pay optional dinner.

The announced program of events is:

- 9:30 - 10:30 am • Registration
- 10:30 - 10:45 am • Short service
- 10:45 - 11:30 am • Christina Yanko-Ringle Sensei
- 11:30am - 1 pm • Sandwiches at Temple, included cost.
- 1 - 3 pm • Discussion session finalizing topic. Outside speaker on
- 3:30 - 5 pm • Financial legacy giving (if possible) finalizing speaker/break-out topic.
- 5:30 p.m. (est.) • Dinner at La Dolce Vita Pizzabar - (high quality Neopolitan-style pizza: thin crust, wood-fired oven) - self-pay

TO REGISTER: There will be a sign up sheet at the Temple or email calgarybuddhisttemple@gmail.com and please advise if you want to come to the self-pay banquet.

BUDDHIST Q & A

Is Amida Buddha the same as God?

Answer is Yes and No. Yes, in a sense that God is love. We say Amida Buddha is compassion. No, in a sense that Amida Buddha is not a creator or a judge like God. Amida Buddha is a symbolical and personified expression of true and real life, life of oneness. Amida Buddha works with boundless compassion to enlighten us whose mind is self-centered, ignoring the fact that nothings exist by or for itself. (Y.I.)

TOBAN UPDATE

Toban Schedule

The Toban system consists of four working groups that keep the temple running smoothly. Tasks include day to day maintenance and set up, cleaning, preparation of the naijin for services, refreshments and meals for meetings, services and special events. We can always use help, whether you're on a Toban list or not.

November	Toban 2
December	Toban 3
January	Toban 1

Thanks to **Toban 1** for work during the month of October and to Sheila Oishi for the unique tea time treats.

Mein-making - Will be held Friday, November 2. We will need 10 volunteers from each Toban.

Fall Chow Mein Supper

Thanks to all who participated in the October 13 Chow Mein Supper and to Judy Takaguchi for leading another successful event.

Board Nominations for 2013

This is an early notice seeking members for BTSA board directorships. Please consider being nominated for an upcoming two-year term. Six positions will be open as two-year terms end for half the board in March, 2013.

Elections for the six positions will be a major agenda item at the Annual General Meeting in March. The staggering of six positions was approved at the 2009 AGM.

All BTSA members are eligible and are encouraged to offer their names for nomination, either by letting the executive know in advance or allowing their names to be nominated at the AGM.

Many of the challenging chores and demands of early amalgamation have been met and many temple duties have been regularized but they still require leadership to be executed smoothly. Minimally, the board meets monthly with a recess during August; we're asking potential board members to devote two hours each month for meetings. Your energy, support and a sense of responsibility are vital to the temple and most welcomed.

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!

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

October 2012

Rita & John M Aoki
Ruby Brett
Malcolm & Mary Clewes
Marg Fujita
Judy Fukushima
Chiduka Hamabata
Helen Higa
Shirley N Higa
Marie Hirashima
Jim Hironaka
Tomi Hisaoka
Rumiko Ibuki
David Ikeda
Sue S Kado
Irene Karia

Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
Gary E & Beverly S McIlroy
Ken & Vickie Nakagama
Kaz & Setsuko Ohno
May Ohno
Doreen G. Osaka
Yumiko Osaka
Hisae Price
Roy & Pat Sassa
Bob & Eiko Shigehihiro
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehihiro
Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
Tomiko Sugimoto
Fugi Takeda
Barbara Takeda

Toshiko Takeda
Reiko Takeyasu
Glen & Pamela Tanaka
Masaye Tanaka
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Tak & Yoko Tsujita
Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima
Jim Tsukishima
Dick and Sue Yamamoto

Total - \$1,850

Other Donations

October 2012

Joyce Adachi
John & Donna Dubbelboer
Alan & Barbara Grant
Hironaka Employee Benefits
Akira & Lorita D Ichikawa
Judy M. Irvine
John & Alice Kanashiro
Kariatsumari Family
Dr David Major & Laverne Hamabata
Shig & Katie K Nakagawa
Hideko Nishi
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
Heidi Oishi
Takeshi & Jan Okamura
Barrie & Jackie-Lynn Robb
Roy & Pat Sassa
Florence Senda
Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
Robert & Judy Takaguchi
Reiko Takeyasu
Glen & Pamela Tanaka
Bill Teshima
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Kimiye Tsuji
Tak & Yoko Tsujita
Ron & Kathryn Yoshida

Total - \$11,165

Obon Donations

July, 2012

Tom & Lily Kaga

(Our apologies for omitting Tom & Lily Kaga from the earlier Obon Donation lists in the Hikari for July and September.)

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 sessions in Japanese will be held the first Sunday of the month at 2 pm led by Rev. Izumi.

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

November 1, 8, 15 & December 6

Thursdays 7 to 8:30 pm

Contact: Katie Nakagawa 403. 327.4296 or katiegak@shaw.ca

Tonari Gumi

Tuesdays 12 - 3 pm

Membership open to all over age 55.

Taiko Class

Tuesdays 6:30 youth, 7 - 8:30 pm adults

Contact: David Tanaka at 403.330.1548 or david@eyesquared.com

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club

Wednesdays 1:30 - 4 pm

Jodo Shinshu Adult Dharma classes

Fridays 7pm

November sessions are on the 2nd and 19th

Contact: Rev. Izumi

PROGRAMS

Contact: Lorita Ichikawa 403.327.1668 or lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

Meditation sessions at the Temple with Rachael Crowder

Beginning Thursdays, November 1, 5:30-6:30pm - 6 sessions

Gentle Yoga for Seniors with Val Kunimoto

Thursdays, 10:30-11:30am - 8 sessions ending November 8

"Breathing, Stretching, Moving" (Aiki Breathing Class) with Lincoln Chew

Mondays, 10:45am-12pm - 8 sessions ending November 19

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations from the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta
Haydn Felix Powis and Patricia Mawer

Women's Federation World Convention Craft Group meets in the Board

Room every Sunday after tea through the end of the year.

Everyone welcome.

Contact: Totsy Nishimura 403.752.3435 or swayn@telusplanet.net

Movie Night at the Temple The Cats of Mirikitani

Saturday, November 3, 7:30pm



Food Donation Box

BTSA is again soliciting food donations from members, this time for the Lethbridge Interfaith Food Bank. A drop-off container is located in the multipurpose room and we encourage any suitable donations. As in past years, we'll collect items through the holiday season and forward them sometime in February. While we realize the great need through Christmas and the new year, demand continues during the post-holiday period as well.

On its website, the Interfaith Food Bank lists its "Most Wanted Items" as: canned fruit/vegetables, canned meats/salmon/tuna, canned soup and soup mixes, canned pasta/stew; spaghetti sauce, unsweetened juices, baby food in jars, infant cereal, baby formula with iron, boxed cereal, canned tomatoes, canned pork and beans, peanut butter/jam, macaroni and cheese, Hamburger Helper, and rolled oats.

As BTSA has done before, the board has agreed to issue a cheque to match the estimated cost of the donated goods to the food bank.

JSBTC Dana Day Donations

BTSA formally observed the annual JSBTC Day on Oct. 14, but we still will continue to accept dana for the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada for awhile. Last year, our temple forwarded \$1,000 in donations.

Please look over Bishop Grant Ikuta's JSBTC Day message on our website. <http://thebtsa.com/images/JSBTC%20Day%202012>

In it, he draws connections between the three dharma seals of Buddhism— impermanence, interdependence, and nirvana—and the JSBTC, noting significant changes he detects in the organization.

His analysis describes these changes, and concludes: "Keeping this in mind, may I ask you to continue supporting both your local temple as well as our National organization. The future is definitely looking up as we move forward."

The JSBTC Dana Day donations go toward the propagation of Jodo Shinshu in Canada. Please make out cheques to BTSA, noting it is for JSBTC Day. BTSA will add up the cheques and forward the total to JSBTC. Any amount donated will be added to the tax receipt sent out by the end of February, 2013.

Chow Mein Supper

BTSA thanks donors, member volunteers and friends for their assistance at the fall chow mein supper. A beautiful day helped move things smoothly along. The breakdown of the supper is as follows:

2000 tickets sold.....	\$20,000.00
Leftover supplies sold.....	554.00
Cash Donations.....	200.00
Total Gross Income	\$20,754.00
Total Expense.....	4,750.13
Total Profit.....	\$16,003.87

Judy Takaguchi who chaired the event expresses her thanks to all the donations received and the time put in by members to undertake this important temple fund raiser. In return, BTSA thanks Judy for the tremendous job. Appreciation to the donors and their donations:

- Nakagama's - Ken Nakagama
- Regent Restaurant - Wayne Kwan
- Glen Tanaka
- Taber Safeway - Rod Yokoyama
- Gouw's Quality Onions - Casey and Kyle Gouw
- Westbridge Construction - Lyle Sakamoto
- Harwood Distributor - Jim Wallace
- Taber Transport - Kei Nishida
- Joe & Sumi Tomiyama and Wanda Tomiyama
- P & H Milling Group - Bob Grebinsky
- Norris Hironaka - Hironaka Employees Benefit

BTSA looks forward to everyone's continued help in the future.





The 4th Annual Bake, Craft and Toy Sale



- Saturday, Dec.1, 2012, 1-3 p.m. in the multipurpose room.
- Sushi, manju and mein noodles
- Homemade snacks and desserts.

Please drop off crafts and baking from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Doors will be closed between 12 and 1 so that we can prepare for the Sales.

If you are interested in participating in the event, please contact volunteer coordinator, Brenda Ikuta.

Gently-used children's toys will be on sale in the Board room. If you have small items you no longer need that are in good condition, please drop them off in the Dharma classroom anytime this month. The Dharma kids will use proceeds to shop for other children over the holiday season. Contact Maya Ichikawa.

Craft sales will benefit the JSBTC World Women's Conference to be held in Calgary in 2015. Contact Totsy Nishimura.

DANA (Second-Hand) SALE Saturday, December 1

The Dharma class will be part of Dana (giving) in action when they sell some of their own personal items such as books and toys to raise money for the Lethbridge Interfaith Food Bank. During the Temple Bake Sale the kids will be set-up in the board room. We invite members to donate any small to medium household items. No clothes, please.

The Dharma students also anticipate selling their usual treat of Dharma Chips that will be prepared by them in the month of November.



THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA
children & youth dharma classes



The class enjoyed a walk in the river bottom collecting nature and noting the changing of seasons.

Schedule 光 November & December 2012

Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service 祥月法要 (service in English)

Please bring Homyo (Buddhist Name) of your loved one. 法名をご持参ください。

NOVEMBER: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				10:30am Gentle Yoga 5:30pm Meditation 7pm SAB Choir 1	7pm Adult Dharma Study 2	Movie Night 6pm dinner 7:30pm movie 3
10:30am Shotsuki (in English) 2pm 日本語法座 4	10:45am Aiki Breathing 5	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 6	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm Membership Committee Meeting 7	10:30am Gentle Yoga 5:30pm Meditation 7pm SAB Choir 8		Alberta Buddhist Conference - Calgary 10
10:30am Regular Service 11	10:45am Aiki Breathing 12	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 13	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSA Board Meeting 14	5:30pm Meditation 7pm SAB Choir 15	7pm Adult Dharma Study 16	17
10:30am Regular Service 18	10:45am Aiki Breathing 19	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 20	1:30pm Karaoke 21	5:30pm Meditation 22		24
10:30am Regular Service 25		12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 27	1:30pm Karaoke 28	5:30pm Meditation 29	7pm Adult Dharma Study 30	

DECEMBER: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:30am Shotsuki (in English) 2pm 日本語法座 2		12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 4	1:30pm Karaoke 5	5:30pm Meditation 7pm SAB Choir 6		1 1-3pm Bake Sale 8
10:30am Bodhi Day Service 9		12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 11	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSA Board Meeting 12		7pm Adult Dharma Study 14	15
10:30am Regular Service 16		12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 18	1:30pm Karaoke 19			22
No Service 23						29
No Service 30	11:30pm 9th annual Joya-no-Kane (New Year's Eve Bell Ringing ceremony) at Nikka Yuko Garden 31					