

Hikari the Light



October 2010

KARMA ACTION

I am a link in Amida Buddha's golden chain of love that stretches around the world. In gratitude may I keep my link bright and strong. I will try to be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect all who are weaker than my self. I will try to think pure and beautiful thoughts, to say pure and beautiful words, and to do pure and beautiful deeds...
(Golden Chain)

We read *Golden Chain* almost every Sunday. Members and friends like the passage. They love it. Even non-Buddhists love it. Many people even memorize it. If we really live as it says and do what we recite, our world will certainly be different. However, the reality is not that easy. Therefore, we must continue to read and reflect on our mind, behaviour and actions.

Golden Chain addresses actions that Buddhist call "karma." Karma does not mean fate which is fixed to happen. Karma simply means action with reaction. Good begets good. Bad begets bad. Karma teaches us to take responsibility for our actions, individually and collectively. It is like an echo. Speak to a mountain, the sound will come back to us. This is the universal law. Our universe is the echo of our actions and our thoughts.

So, *Golden Chain* says: Try to think pure and beautiful thoughts, say pure and beautiful words and do pure and beautiful deeds.

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These three actions create our life. Among the three, "thought" is the most important. Thought is the working of the mind. Our thoughts and minds are jumping around ceaselessly, usually in our own selfish way, always seeking our own gain and victory. So a wise teaching says: "Be careful of your thoughts and minds." We must be careful, even for a small action. A Japanese proverb admonishes us: "Even dust, when piled up, may form a hill." We, therefore, must take care of our thoughts because they become words. We must take care of our words because they become actions. We must take care of our actions because they become our habits, which become our characters and, ultimately, our destiny.

Therefore, the three kinds of karma represent the whole of our life. The problem is that our thoughts and minds are tainted by self-centeredness and self-ego. Our self-centered ego mind creates a life of defilement and delusion, corruption and pollution. It is not pure. The Pure Land is not a dream land but the production of a Buddha of pure wisdom, of non-ego and pure compassion of oneness. Amida Buddha of the Pure Land symbolizes pure and complete wisdom, compassion that is not separate from us but nurturing us, illuminating our karma every day.

Sentient beings who encounter the light of Amida (the working of Amida's vow and call, Namo Amida Butsu) have the three defilements swept away, and they become soft and gentle in body and mind. They leap and dance with joy with the good mind of Shinjin (true entrusting mind). How wonderful it is!

Namo Amida Butsu,
Yasuo Izumi, Minister of BTSA

インストラクション

先日大きな箱が届きました。箱の中にマウンテンバイクが入っていました。ワイフが「小児病院基金」の宝くじを買ったところ、バイクが当たったのです。バイクは部品が取り外されていました。きちっとしたバイクにするには、組み立てなければなりません。早速、組み立て始めました。ところが途中まできて、それが簡単なものではないことに気づきました。それでインストラクションを読みました。(普通はそれを最初に読むものですが)。インストラクションに従って組み立てたところ、今度はうまくいきました。

お釈迦様の教え(お経)は、お釈迦様が、私たちのために残して下さったインストラクションであると言えましょうか。人生を全うすると言うことは、そう簡単なものではないようです。ただ単に、年をとって亡くなる、と言うことではないのでしょうか。ある方が、私たちの人生を指して、「ままならぬ、難しい、わずらわしい」と言われました。まことに簡単に行かないのが私たちの人生のようです。そのような時に、私たちは、仏様の教えに耳を傾けることが大事であります。本当は、人生をスタートするときに、教え(インストラクション)は理解しておくものでしょう。しかし、実際にはそうは行きません。私たちは、人生の難しさに出会って、はじめて、仏様の教えに耳を傾けるようになるのではないのでしょうか。「間に合っただけよかった」と、仏様の教え(大慈悲心)に出会った喜びを残して人生を終えて行かれた方がありました。思えば、インストラクションは、最初から私たちのために用意されてあったのです。教えに導かれて、この人生を実り多いものとして全うしたいものであります。いよいよ、聞法させていただきます。合掌 泉

BTSA NOTES

Calling all veggie choppers, meat cutters, cooks and other volunteers: **the Fall Chow Mein supper on Oct. 16** can use all the help it can get. We're hoping the weather agrees with us as it did during the last two drive-through suppers and a glorious autumn day helps us out. Please offer your assistance.

BTSA Movie Night that began in August with the showing of *Departures* was followed by a second session Oct. 1, with the screening of *Enlightenment Guaranteed*, a German film recounting the adventures of two brothers who seek the meaning of life in Japan. Future sessions are planned in the series; please watch for announcements.

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC) Day will be commemorated at the Oct. 24 Sunday service. Please see JSBTC President David Ohori's letter elsewhere in this Hikari. Envelopes will be available during regular services leading up to that date, so please consider making a donation. Those unable to attend services are asked to mail in donations. Please make out cheques to BTSA, indicating they're for JSBTC Day. All proceeds will be forwarded to JSBTC to support various programs, and the BTSA will include the donations in tax receipts for 2010.

The Alberta Buddhist Conference in Calgary on Oct. 29 thru 31, in conjunction with the 750th commemoration of Shinran Shonin, will have a number of delegates from BTSA. Please insure everyone planning to attend has registered by sending in the registration form that was printed in the September Hikari. Forms also are available at the temple. The deadline is Oct. 15-Those planning to travel by vans rented by BTSA are asked to confirm their registration. More Information about van schedules and related matters will be available shortly.

The Second Annual BTSA's Funeral Fair is scheduled for Nov. 6. Renae Barlow who organized the fair is expecting most of last year's exhibitors to be back this year. Please mark the date on the calendar and let your friends know about this informational session concerning one of life's most important events. It's hoped that being prepared will minimize the shock and confusion that attends death and funeral planning.

Other Matters: David Major has consented to fill the JSBTC board position vacated with the death of Tom Allen, Toronto, this summer. Thanks to David for his commitment.

The shed that the board agreed to erect in the northwest corner of the lot is being constructed, but as of the last meeting the city approval was still pending.

The Membership Committee has held several meetings to examine how membership might be developed and increased. Besides the above-mentioned movie night, other ideas are in the works with the hope of making BTSA more meaningful to current, past and future members.

Elections to the board are still several months away and all members are eligible to serve. Interested persons are asked to inform any board members and allow their names to be nominated. More information will be available in the coming months.

Akira Ichikawa

TOBAN UPDATE

Toban Rotation Schedule

October	Toban 3
November	Toban 4
December	Toban 1

Soup Kitchen 2011 Schedule:

January 19, Feb 2, March 24, May 23

"Twas the Days Before Serving....."

*Scents, fragrances and jewelry should not be left behind
In food for temple fundraising, please- if you could be so kind.
Nor do we want to offend those whose sensitivities may flare
Let's avoid reports to health inspectors that could give us all a scare.
So just a caution we remind; please heed the codes to follow
Which are to scrub-a-scrub those hands with a brush, soap & hot water
Also nails kept short; no polish or rings
For in the food, no one wants foreign things.
"Gloves optional" with food handling is something new to us
If gloves used, dispose when done and wash with soap, water & brush
Tho' there is a new ruling when working machinery,
Clean hands is what we really need.
Keep hairs well covered, without a strand in site
You may hear someone advise, "keep 'em tucked in tight!"
So thank you to all; it is compliments we want to hear
Of "how scrumptiously tasty", without undesirables in view to fear.
The best to you all as each task will soon be o'er
And for helping one another keep in line
These suggested grating chores.*

Pat Sassa,
P & O Co-Chair

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of CANADA (JSBTC) DAY

With school back into session, we are reminded that Fall is immediately around the corner and that the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Day is before us.

The JSBTC (formerly the Buddhist Churches of Canada) Day, held annually in October, marks the founding of this national organization that brings all Jodo Shinshu followers together in one encompassing group through which we can draw upon each others strength and wisdom. This organization was founded in October, 1974. The JSBTC is the official organization by which the mother temple, the Nishi Hongwanji, can support the efforts of the Jodo Shinshu followers in Canada.

This Day also gives all of us the opportunity to commemorate and express our gratitude to the pioneers and other past members who were very active in the propagation of Buddhism in Canada.

The selection of the service date to commemorate this occasion is flexible and can be held on a day that is suitable for each temple. As in the past, the donations from this very special Day go towards the continued education of our present and future ministers and perhaps other initiatives deemed important by the National Board. Indeed, without the support from contributors there would be a financial challenge for the Board to undertake programs.

I am sure you will learn more about the significance of this Day by listening to your minister. We look forward to your attendance and support on this very special Day.

In Gassho,
Dave Otori, President

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada WOMEN'S FEDERATION

Dear Temple Board Members,

Greetings from the National Board of the JSBTC Women's Federation, may this letter find you all doing well in the light of the Nembutsu.

I am writing to you today as next year in May, the Hongwanji in Kyoto, Japan will be hosting Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial Service in conjunction with the World Buddhist Women's

Buddhist Federation Conference also to be held in Kyoto. It has been 750 years since the passing of the founder of Jodo Shinshu, Shinran Shonin. Since that time, the Nembutsu teaching has spread far and wide where today; it can be heard in as far off destinations such as here in Canada. With modern technology, the world around us seems to be getting smaller and smaller, and Japan seems to be much closer than it did for people living generations ago. And yet, even with all of our advancements, as individuals we are still filled with the same blind passions and weakness experienced by individuals 750 years ago.

Especially for women in our modern era the challenges are great. In a period in which women in our society are fortunate enough to receive the same education as our male counterparts, still society places the majority of the onus of raising children on women. Because of the many pressures we live our lives with, at times our worries are great, even like being pulled into endless darkness.

For such beings as us, Shinran Shonin spread the teachings of Amida Buddha. Even though it has been 750 years since his passing, we are still able to receive this most precious teaching.

Shinran Shonin taught us the teaching that embraces both the joys and sorrows of being born as human beings, as women, the upcoming 750th Memorial Service is a wonderful opportunity to pay homage to our founder. Please make the most of this opportunity and join the service at the Hongwanji in May, 2011.

In addition to the events of next year, in 2015 Toronto will be hosting the World Buddhist Women's Federation Convention. This convention will only be possible with the contribution and cooperation of not just the JSBTC Women's Federation, but through the efforts of each and every one of the members of our overall JSBTC organization. Regardless of whether or not the local temple has a Women's Auxiliary on behalf of the Women's Federation National Board may I humbly ask each of you for your contribution in supporting the 2015 World Buddhist Women's Federation Convention. the Nembutsu.

Gassho,
Noriko Ikuta
President
JSBTC Women's Federation



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: _____

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!

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

September 2010

Kiyoo Chiba
 Irene Karia
 Sumi Oga
 Takumi & Mitsuko Oga
 Tak & Jan Okamura
 Mr. & Mrs. Ken Okuma
 Shig Sakamoto
 Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
 Amy & Masami Tashiro
 Mas Terakita
 Minoru Yoshida

Total - \$1,585.00

Shotsuki Hoyo

September 2010

Judy Fukushima
 Chiduka Hamabata
 Shirley Higa
 Rumiko Ibuki
 Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
 John & Alice Kanashiro
 Sadae Kanegawa
 Hiroshi Kitagawa
 Takeshi & Sue Koyata
 Katoye Maruno
 May Ohno
 Sut & Neva Oishi
 Yoshiye Shirakawa
 Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
 Tomiko Sugimoto
 Gaye Takao
 Toshiko Tanaka
 Bob & Shirley Taniguchi
 Joe & Jean Tatebe
 Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
 Tak & Yoko Tsujita

Total - \$885.00

2010 Buddhist Memorial Service

仏教徒の年忌法要

Year of Death (死亡年)

2009 First annual memorial1 year from death
 2008 3rd2 full years from death
 2004 7th6 full years from death
 1998 13th12 full years from death
 1994 17th16 full years from death
 1986 25th24 full years from death
 1978 33rd32 full years from death
 1961 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.

FALL PROGRAMS

All programs are held at BTSA and open to the community

Lorita Ichikawa 403.327.1668

lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

Gentle Yoga for Seniors

Instructor: Val Kunimoto

Tuesdays 10:30 – 11:30am, Sept 21- Nov 23

“Breathing, Stretching, Moving”

Instructor: Lincoln Chew

Mondays: 10:45am - 12 noon, Sept 27 - Nov 22

No class Oct 11

Exploring Art for Preschoolers

Instructor: Maya Ichikawa

Wednesdays 10-11am, Oct 6 - Nov 10

REGULAR EVENTS

Japanese Conversational Language Class

Sunday 7 - 8pm (NEW TIME), next classes Oct 3 & Oct 24

Instructor: Rev.Izumi

Starting in October classes will be held twice a month at individual homes. If you are interested in coming out to one or any of the classes and/or for more info contact:

Denise Takao at 381.1187 or detakao@telus.net

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

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Fall practices resume October 7

Thursdays 7 – 8:30pm

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

Sessions resume October 13

Wednesdays 1:30 – 4 pm

All interested are welcome to join or just listen and enjoy

Japanese Lesson:

How do you say this in Japanese?



What time is it now?

Ima wa nanji desu ka?




It's time to eat lunch.

Hirugohan no jikan desu.

Kanji Corner

		┌	┐
Kuchi			
< ち			
Mouth			

3 strokes

Derives from a pictograph of a mouth.  →  → 

Our life is based on verbal (mouth) action as well as thought (mind and heart) action and physical (body) action.

Action = Karma

CHAIR SCHEDULE Oct & Nov 2010

Oct 03 SHOTSUKI

Chair: Sway Nishimura

Audio: Lorita Ichikawa

Oct 10 REGULAR

Chair: Katie Nakagawa

Audio: Sway Nishimura

Oct 17 REGULAR

Chair: Reiko Takeyasu

Audio: Tak Okamura

Oct 24 REGULAR

Chair: Jack Nagai

Audio: Roland Ikuta

Oct 31 ABC Service

Nov 07 SHOTSUKI

Chair: Akira Ichikawa

Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Nov 14 REGULAR

Chair: Robert Takaguchi

Audio: Tak Okamura

Nov 21 REGULAR

Chair: Renae Barlow

Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Nov 28 REGULAR

Chair: Roland Ikuta

Audio: Roy Sassa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences

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

Mrs. Novey Yoshida (78) July 23, 2010

Mrs. Fumoko Chiba (85) Aug 24, 2010

Mrs. Fumiko Nakama (80) Sept 26

Wedding

Barret Better & Susan Stewart Aug 28, 2010

So far the **JSBTC WF** has made \$4,281.76 selling gift cards. This profit will be used for the 2015 WBW Convention in Toronto. Our sales in Southern Alberta have made over \$1,000 of the total. Gift card requests are being taken for Christmas and the order will be placed at the beginning of November so anyone who wants Christmas gift cards, please let me know as soon as possible. Thank you for your support.

In appreciation,
Donna Dubbelboer

Dharma: My Guiding Light (Issue 8)

Rev. Izumi has once again published his dharma talks in his eighth annual edition of the Dharma: My Guiding Light. The dharma articles within this year's collection help readers to reflect on the dharma in every day life. Readers will appreciate Rev. Izumi's reflections on ego self and our opportunities for transformation; a touching recount of a visit to the hospice to visit a Buddhist follower for the first time; and a humorous look at conflict and the Japanese translation of "gata-gata". The BTSA has printed 600 of these publications for distribution across Canada. If you would like to order copies, please contact Renae Barlow (renaeb@telus.net) or Sensei Izumi. A donation of \$2 per book to cover printing costs would be appreciated.

Onenju (Ojuzu) For Sale

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

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.

CALLING ALL BAKERS AND CRAFTERS!

The Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta is hosting the 2nd Annual



BODHI DAY CRAFT & BAKE SALE

**Saturday, November 27, 2010
1 - 3 pm**

Please bring your craft and/or bake sale donation to the multipurpose room on Saturday, November 27 between 9 am and 12 noon.

For more information, call Debbie Friesen (345.4767) or Brenda Ikuta (317.0078)

Thank you everyone for your contributions to this important fundraiser!

UPCOMING DHARMA CLASS ACTIVITY

The class will be participating in the November Bake sale:

Nov 14 Making labels

Nov 21 Packaging Dharma Chips

Nov 27 Selling Dharma Chips at the Kids' Table



THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA
children & youth dharma classes

CARROTS ANYONE?

During the month of September, the Dharma class dug up the carrots in Lumbini Garden, washed and scrubbed them and used them in cookies that were served to members during tea.



October & November 2010 Schedule 十月と、十一月の予定表

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	
OCTOBER	* Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial and ABC in Calgary , No service at BTSa. Those who want to receive confirmation ceremony (Sarana confirmation) on Oct 30 at Calgary Buddhist Temple please let Rev. Izumi know.							
						1	2	
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service 7pm Japanese 3	10:45am Breathing, Stretching, Moving 4	10:30am Gentle Yoga 12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 5	10am Exploring Art for Preschoolers 6	7pm SAB Choir 7		8	9
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service DEADLINE for ABC Registration 10		10:30am Gentle Yoga 12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 12	10am Exploring Art for Preschoolers 1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSa Board Meeting 13	7pm SAB Choir 14	Chow Mein Supper Preparation 15		Chow Mein Supper 16
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service (JSBTC Day) 17	10:45am Breathing, Stretching, Moving 18	10:30am Gentle Yoga 12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 19	10am Exploring Art for Preschoolers 1:30pm Karaoke 20	7pm SAB Choir 21		22	Newsletter article deadline 23
9:40am Chanting Regular Service (JSBTC Day) 7pm Japanese 24 *	10:45am Breathing, Stretching, Moving 25	Gentle Yoga No Class 12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 26	10am Exploring Art for Preschoolers 1:30pm Karaoke 27	Buddhist Film Festival, Calgary 7pm SAB Choir 28	ABC, Calgary Buddhist Film Festival, Calgary 29		ABC, Calgary 30	

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOVEMBER		10:45am Breathing, Stretching, Moving 1	10:30am Gentle Yoga 12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 2	10am Exploring Art for Preschoolers 1:30pm Karaoke 3	7pm SAB Choir 4		5
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service 7	10:45am Breathing, Stretching, Moving 8	10:30am Gentle Yoga 12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 9	10am Exploring Art for Preschoolers 1:30pm Karaoke 10	7pm SAB Choir 11		12
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service 14	10:45am Breathing, Stretching, Moving 15	10:30am Gentle Yoga 12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 16	1:30pm Karaoke 17	7pm SAB Choir 18		19
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Autumn O-Hiagan Equinox Service 21	10:45am Breathing, Stretching, Moving 22	10:30am Gentle Yoga 12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko Newsletter article deadline 23	1:30pm Karaoke 24	7pm SAB Choir 25	Bake & Craft Sale Preparation 26	Bodhi Day Bake & Craft Sale 1 - 3pm 27
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service 28		12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 30				