

Hikari the Light



September 2012

ON OLYMPICS The Lull After a Storm

The 2012 Summer Olympics in London were over on August 12 after 16 days of competition. It is now like the lull after a storm. I am sure that many of you watched, and were excited by and enjoyed the games on TV. We talked about how many medals Canada won; how many Canadian athletes stood on the podium; who won gold, silver or bronze.

Athletes from 204 countries competed. I don't think there is anything wrong in the competition of skills. Winning and losing are central in the world of competition. There were tears and laughter, disappointment and excitement. It is the epitome of an ordinary life.

We humans tend to divide things into two. For example, we think of sports in terms of victory and defeat, winner and loser. Then we become attached to one; obviously, victory and winning. We want victory. We want to be a winner. We want more gold medals. I heard one radio commentator on the Olympics saying that: "our athletes should bring as many medals as possible back to Canada. We have supported them and spent a lot of money for them. This is competition. It is not enough just to take part in the games."

I personally do not necessarily agree with the comment. We sent the athletes to the London Olympics as our representatives, representatives of Canada. They worked hard to improve their skills for the Olympics and put all their might, all their efforts in the competition. We should be grateful for that. We watched TV and enjoyed the moment of their accomplishments, beauty, strength and skill. This is so not only of Canadian athletes but also of others. I don't think we should become too attached to the idea

of winning and losing, winner and loser. Of course, we are happy when Canadian athletes stand proudly on the podium. We are happy and excited to listen to the Canadian anthem. But we should not be caught up in the dualistic idea of winner and loser, victory and defeat. When athletes and people around become too much attached to winning and victory, some of them start to do whatever they can do to win, which we witnessed. They get the wrong idea of "means to the end" and engage in dirty tricks. I think we should keep in mind that, after all, there is no winner without a loser. I think we Buddhists should know that we are not result-seekers but consider motivation and intention as fundamental.

Just suppose that a person who is competing is our child, say our son. Of course, we want him to win; but, even in loss, we totally accept him as he is. Actually, it does not matter to the parents, in the truest sense, whether he wins or loses. Parents want him to do his best with no injuries and no pressure and return home safely with a smile. The parents welcome him as he is. We would be better to see and think of all athletes as our own children or brothers and sisters.

Shinran Shonin (1173-1263) wrote: All Buddhas (Enlightened Beings) of the ten quarters see and think of the beings as their only child.

Parents want children to be good, but if there is a bad child their attention focus on that particular child with care and deep concern. I think this is parental love toward their children. In true love, there is no discrimination. Their love is beyond good and bad, beyond boundaries we create. This is the heart of all Buddhas. For them there is no good and bad, winner and loser, victory and defeat. The Buddha accepts them as they are. There is no ego-mind in the Buddha: It is the spirit of oneness and true compassion. In the midst of the world of duality we

should listen to and appreciate this spirit not only in the time of Olympics but also in our everyday lives of ups and downs.

Namo Amida Butsu
Yasuo Izumi, Minister
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

大きな道

この夏は、イギリスで開催されたオリンピックで世界中が興奮の渦に巻き込まれた感がありました。その期間中、三泊四日でありましたが。私は、ロスアンゼルスのリトル東京で開催されたアメリカ教団開教使布教研修会に出席してきました。初めてリトル東京を訪れたのは、四十五年前のことで、開教使になる前でした。無銭旅行中で、リトル東京のレストラン“味の一番”で二ヶ月間、皿洗いをしていました。その後、開教使になって二、三度訪れましたが、訪れる度に、当時の面影はどんどん消えていきました。西本願寺別院も、今は、昔の場所から徒歩で数分の所に、新しく威風堂々と建立されました。時は移り、建物は変わりました。しかし、本堂に掲げられている「顕示大道」の額は昔と同じでした。「大道を顕示する」とは、宗祖親鸞聖人が、私たちに示して下さった「南無阿弥陀仏の大道」のことです。南無阿弥陀仏という「仏様の呼び声」は、老若、男女、善悪、貴賤を問わない道、全ての生きとし生ける者が等しく仏道を歩み救われていく、広く、温かい、大きな道である、ということでしょう。限りある世の中で、死におびえ、生にまどえる私たちを、いつでも、どこでも包み込んで下さる、「大悲の働き」ということです。決して滅びることのない仏様の呼び声に、私たちは、日々新たに遇わせていただくのです。そこに本当のよろこびと、安らぎが与えられるのではないのでしょうか。南無阿弥陀仏の呼び声に、私たちの心をかたむけていきましょう。合掌 いずみ
日本語法座：第一日曜午後一時

BTSA Minister: REV. YASUO IZUMI
403.382.7024 • yasuo123@shaw.ca
470-40 St S • Lethbridge, AB T1J 3Z5
403.327.1260 • www.theBTSA.com

BTSA NOTES

The cool August evenings remind us that autumn is near and that means an uptick of temple activities after a relatively lazy summer. The first major undertaking is the noodle mein-making session on Sept. 22, under the direction of Pat Sassa and Keiko Gordon.

At least 10 persons from each toban are requested to meet at the temple at 8 a.m. to produce the much sought-after mein for a major fund-raiser, the fall chow mein supper. The supper is set for Oct. 13, under Judy Takaguchi's supervision. Please refer to Judy's note following this article that outlines the schedule for the supper.

The Alberta Buddhist Conference this year is set for Nov. 10 in Calgary. After 33 years with a relatively established program of events, this year's will inaugurate a changed format. It'll be a one-day get-together, starting late enough on Saturday morning to allow us to drive up that day. Christina Yanko, the ministerial candidate from southern Alberta, will be the main speaker. More details will be forthcoming in the next Hikari. We look forward to a good turnout from BTSA.

Looking back, another successful bon odori provided a mid-summer celebration in July. A big thank you to all those who planned the event, helped, danced, and participated by attending. The following day's Obon service drew large crowds both at the Mountain View cemetery and the temple. Thanks to Toban 2 for the delicious sit-down supper following the service. Please see an article elsewhere for details.

Sad notes were struck around the Obon weekend when Masayuki Terakita—a long-time friend of the Dharma in southern Alberta and known throughout the country in both Japanese-Canadian and other circles—died. Shortly thereafter, we lost one of our most senior Dharma friends, Mrs. Fujiye Kariatsumari. We will miss both who helped sustain Jodo Shinshu in the area.

Couple of maintenance notes to report: during the summer, the outdoor windows, with the exception of the large wisteria-etched one at the east end of the building, were professionally-cleaned, and the kitchen exhaust and duct system was steam cleaned. By city fire regulations, the duct in a commercial cooking system as ours requires annual cleaning and the cost of cleaning has been included in the temple budget.

A final note on duct cleaning: the company who did the cleaning advised us that nothing behind the removable vents over the stove and wok should be cleaned for fear that a line could be tripped that would activate the suppression system (the big red canister to the west of the stove) which will release fire-retardant foam throughout the kitchen. The area should be left to a duct cleaning firm who will clean it annually.

Akira Ichikawa

CHAIR SCHEDULE September 2012

Sept 02 SHOTSUKI
Chair: David Major
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Sept 09
Chair: Roland Ikuta/Kids
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Sept 16
Chair: Florence Senda
Audio: Roland Ikuta

Sept 23 Regular
Chair: Margaret Benson
Audio: Tak Okamura

Sept 30
Chair: Robert Takaguchi
Audio: Sway Nishimura

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.

Fall Chow Mein Supper October 13, 2012

Preparation for the fall Chow Mein take-out supper will take place on Oct 12, 2012 beginning at 8 A.M. We would like to have at least 15 to 20 volunteers from each Toban. Because we do not have sufficient quantities of cutting boards and knives at the temple, please bring yours from home if possible. Coffee breaks and lunch will be served on Friday and Saturday.

Assigned leaders will be coordinating volunteers to help cook, serve, and package the food on Saturday.

Cliff Thomas has volunteered to distribute the tickets to the Toban leaders.

We look forward to everyone's cooperation and help.

Judy Takaguchi, Chair



REGULAR EVENTS

Dharma sessions in Japanese will be held the first Sunday of the month at 1 pm led by Rev. Izumi.

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Resumes October 11
Thursdays 7 to 8:30 pm
Contact: Katie Nakagawa 403. 327.4296 or katieinak@shaw.ca

Tonari Gumi

Resumes September 4
Tuesdays 12 - 3 pm
Membership open to all over age 55.

Taiko Class

Resumes September 11
Tuesdays 7 - 8:30 pm
Contact: David Tanaka at 403.330.1548 or david@eyesquared.com

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club

Resumes October 10
Wednesdays 1:30 - 4 pm

PROGRAMS

Gentle Yoga for Seniors with Val Kunimoto
Thursdays Sept. 20 10:30-11:30|8 sessions

"Breathing, Stretching, Moving" (Aiki Breathing Class) with Lincoln Chew
Mondays September 24 10:45-12|8 sessions

For Programs or special events:

Please contact: Lorita Ichikawa 403.327.1668 or lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

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

Condolences

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

Masayuki Terakita (89) July 12

Fujiye Kariatsumari (98) July 23

Many Congratulations!

Steven Timothy Riley & Audrey Amanda Richardson married July 14

Mitchell Davis Walker & Lauren Kiyomi Kurio married July 28

Women's Federation World Convention Craft Group will meet the 3rd Sunday in the Board Room after tea. Everyone welcome.

For more information on the Convention go to <http://www.bwconvention.ca> or <http://www.bwconvention.com>.

Please contact: Totsy Nishimura 403.752.3435 or swayn@telusplanet.net

Meditation class Vickie MacArthur, a local yoga & meditation instructor, will offer a Meditation class at the temple this fall if there is interest. There will be an introductory session that includes information from Sensei Izumi regarding the relationship between meditation and Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. If you are interested, and to determine best times, complete form to be found in the foyer on the table and leave it there or please contact: Sylvia Oishi 403.328.5849 or Sylvia.Oishi@albertacourts.ca

BUDDHIST Q & A

Is there such a place called hell?

地獄ってあるのですか?

Hell is written in Kanji characters as 地獄 (earthly prison). Hell is like a prison cell created by our selfish mind: greed, anger and foolishness. In this sense, are we not presently dwelling in the realm of hell? It is Amida Buddha's light of wisdom and compassion that helps us realize that there is a hell and, at the same time, guides all of us to the Pure Land of enlightenment where there is no selfish mind. Fear not hell but our mind! (Y.I.)

TOBAN UPDATE

We can always use help, whether you're on a Toban list or not. If you would like to be on the list for calls, let your contact a Toban leader or Lorita.

September	Toban 4
October	Toban 1
November	Toban 2

Tobans 2 and 3 had a busy summer months with memorials and the usual Sunday tea and clean up. Special appreciation is extended to Sumie Tsukishima who volunteered to lead Toban 2 this past year.

Mein-making will be held Saturday, September 22. Ten volunteers from each Toban (who need not be Toban members) are requested. Please let Pat Sassa or your Toban leader know if you can help. Approximately 40 volunteers are required starting at 8 am

Fall Chow Mein Supper will be October 13 with Judy Takaguchi coordinating.

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

July & August 2012

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Elaine Ferguson
Judy Fukushima
Chiduka Hamabata
Shirley N Higa
Marie Hirashima
Tomi Hisaoka
Rumiko Ibuki
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Karen Nakagiri
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Mitsuko Nishi
Hideo & Jennifer Nishida
May Nishikawa
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
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Fumi Sugimoto
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Sam & Betty Taniguchi
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Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima

Total - \$1,480

Obon Donations

July 2012

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Total - \$15,775

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.

Other Donations

July & August 2012

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Yasuo Yamashita
Aiko Yoshihara
Gord & Sandra Zacher

Total - \$20,645

BON ODORI 2012

It seems long past, but never to late to remember the festivity of the 9th Annual Bon Odori and Bazaar and thank those who participated.

Although the day had an inauspicious start with a continuous light rain, the skies cleared just at six o'clock as the event began. Following a Taiko call, Rev. Izumi opened with the chanting of San Bujo and gave greetings to all. Harry Sugimoto was an excellent MC, researching well the many dances and announcing them with enthusiasm and clarity. The wet weather earlier in the day may have contributed to fewer onlookers than last year, but there were still over five hundred attendees based on the numbers of flyers and bookmarks distributed. Maya Ichikawa, created another striking poster, used in advertising and put up around the city. Appreciation goes to the Minyo Dancers and organizer Pat Sassa for the many hours of preparation and then weekly dance practice sessions – it was good to see so many youngsters participating. The late Aya Hironaka, to whom the Bon Odori was dedicated, was greatly missed. David Tanaka and Kynan Gordon provided a wonderful taiko opening and kept the beat of the dances throughout. A special treat was a Taiko performance during the dance break, led by David and featuring NCS Taiko, sponsored by the Nikkei Cultural Society, with both adult and youth groups participating.

Special appreciation to Dharma Deli coordination/ food prep volunteers Brenda Ikuta, Sheila Oishi, Maya Ichikawa and Vivian Kossuth and to all who helped with the Dharma Dogs. Charlotte Ikuta and Lisa Sakamoto coordinated the sno-cone stand with help from Riley Hanna and Kate Takeda. Thanks to all the ticket and booth sales volunteers and those involved in set up and take down of the stage and lanterns. It was a great community effort with tables from the Nikko Yuko Japanese Garden, the Japanese Language School, the Okinawa Cultural Society and the BTSa Women's Federation. For donations, we thank Al Anctil and Terry Horii. On behalf of the Bon Odori Committee, thanks to all the reliable volunteers who shared their time and energy towards the success of this year's Bon Odori.

In gassho,
Lorita Ichikawa



Photo credits:
John Dubbelboer Lorita Ichikawa



Schedule 光 September & October 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。

SEPTEMBER: TOBAN 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
10:30am Shotsuki 1pm 日本語法座 2	3	12pm Tonari Gumi 4	5	6	7	8
10:30am Regular Service 9	10	12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 11	7pm BTSA Board Meeting 12	13	14	15
10:30am Regular Service 16	17	12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 18	19	10:30am Gentle Yoga 20	21	8am Mein-making 22
10:30am Autumn Ohigan Equinox Service 23 30 Regular Service	10:45am Aiki Breathing 24	12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 25	26	10:30am Gentle Yoga 27	28	29

OCTOBER: TOBAN 1

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	10:45am Aiki Breathing 1	12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 2	3	10:30am Gentle Yoga 4	5	6
10:30am Shotsuki 1pm 日本語法座 7	10:45am Aiki Breathing 8	12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 9	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSA Board Meeting 10	10:30am Gentle Yoga 7pm SAB Choir 11	12	Chow Mein Supper 13
10:30am Regular Service 14	10:45am Aiki Breathing 15	12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 16	1:30pm Karaoke 17	10:30am Gentle Yoga 7pm SAB Choir 18	19	20
10:30am Regular Service 21	10:45am Aiki Breathing 22	12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 23	1:30pm Karaoke 24	10:30am Gentle Yoga 7pm SAB Choir 25	26	27
10:30am Regular Service 28	10:45am Aiki Breathing 29	12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 30	1:30pm Karaoke 31			