



## Gentle and Soft Mind

One Saturday morning, as soon as I opened the temple door, I heard the sound of a vacuum cleaner. I went to my office and saw two elderly gentlemen cleaning the room next to my office. I greeted them and said to one of them, "You don't need to clean the room so thoroughly and nicely, do you? After all, the temple has already been sold and we are moving out in a couple of months." With a smile, he said, "Well, I have already started, so I will finish it anyway," and he continued to clean the room.

Then I went downstairs. I saw several elderly ladies working in the kitchen and dining area. Some were cleaning and polishing an oven and its burner. Some were washing the floor and wiping the dust off of the window frames. It was shining everywhere. I stood there for a moment for I was struck with awe. Then I remembered a Japanese saying: "A waterfowl which leaves its home does not leave any untidy and unclean spots behind."

I regret what I told the gentleman. I was ashamed of myself. Even a bird leaves a place without leaving a mess. We should be conscientious when we leave a place. We should be concerned about people who are coming to the place later. Are we not all con-



nected with one another whether we know them or not? These elderly members who were working to clean up may not know who is moving in and yet they were doing consciously and unconsciously

what they should do for others. I thought that they must have been brought up and nurtured by the Light of Buddha for a long time.

I think that we are essentially self-centered and selfish beings. We do not really think of others. We do not show our concern especially to those who are unaware or have no relation. However, I saw that morning these elderly people who were working so unselfishly.

One of Amida Buddha's aspirations is that "the bodies and minds of all sentient beings become gentle and soft by being enveloped and touched by my Light." Watching these elderly members I thought that the aspiration of the Buddha had been realized. Yes, the light of the Buddha is able to nurture our hearts and minds and eventually transform them into gentle and soft hearts and minds.

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



## 「煩惱を絶つことなく、悟りの世界を歩む」

ある方から「教えを聞いても、その後、すぐまた欲や、腹立ちが起こります。どうしたらよいのでしょうか」と訊ねられました。仏様の教えを聞けば、欲や腹立ちがなくなるもの、と私たちは思うのです。仏教は、たしかに煩惱(欲、腹立ち)の心を制御して、なくしていく道といえます。しかし、日々の生活の中で、わが身を省みる時、これほど難しい道はないことに気づきます。

親鸞さまは、煩惱の心を持ちながら、お悟りの世界を歩むことが出来る、と教えて下さいます。それは、み仏のお慈悲の心をよく聞かせていただくことによるのみ可能であると言われるのです。私達の愚かさゆえに働いて下さっているお慈悲<仏心、本願、真実の働き>に気づかされる時、私達の欲や腹立ちは、もう仏道の邪魔にならないと言うことなのです。それは、決して煩惱のままに生きてらよい、ということではありません。お慈悲に照らされれば、おのずから「つつしみ」の心も育てられていくものと思います。大海に一滴の墨を落としても、海そのものは全く影響されることがない如く、私達の煩惱(欲、腹立ちの心)は、み仏の広大な慈悲の邪魔にはならないのです。それどころか、自然に浄化されていくのです。要は、そのような広大なみ仏のお慈悲に、今、出会うことである、と言うことでしょう。いよいよ、み仏のお心を聴聞させていただきましょう。合掌(開教使いずみ)

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# BTSA Account Quick Report

(from Feb 1 to March 19, 2008)

## Donation for Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorial Service)

Mr. Hiroshi Kitagawa  
Mr. & Mrs. Sway Nishimura  
Mrs. Judy Fukushima  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hirashima  
Mrs. Tomi Hisaoka  
Mrs. May Ohno  
Mr. & Mrs. Yoshiyuki Oishi  
Mrs. May Nishikawa  
Mr. & Mrs. Takumi Oga  
Mr. Joe Tatebe  
Mr. Kenji Tatebe  
Mr. & Mrs. Noris Taguchi  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Ohno  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Sassa  
Mrs. Tomiko Kobayashi  
Mrs. Hideko Oishi  
Mrs. Kay Maruno  
Ms. Sonia Sitz  
Mrs. Tomi Hisaoka  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hirashima  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hironaka  
Mr. & Mrs. Saburo Nishi  
Mr. Mas Terakita,  
Dr. & Mrs. Yoshio Senda  
Ms. Irene Karia  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Kurio

**Total \$925.00 (Feb.1 -March 19)**

## Chow Mein Supper Financial Summary

### Income:

Chow Mein Supper Deposit \$14,743.75  
Sushi, Manju, Mein Sales \$4,539.00  
**Total \$19,282.75**

**Expenses \$3,027.93**

**Profit \$16,254.82**

## Donations that the treasurer is aware of

Regent Restaurant - \$1000.00  
Ellison Milling - Flour  
Canbra - Cooking Oil  
Gouw's Onions (Taber)  
Nobby Sudo's Cabbages (Coaldale)  
Nakagama's - 2 Sacks of Rice  
Sumi Tomiyama - 18 jars of pickles  
Personal Donations - \$80.00

## Haru no Tsudoi

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club will hold a concert titled "Haru no Tsudoi" (A Spring Gathering) on Sat. Apr.26th at 2pm, South Temple on Forestry Ave. S. Proceeds from this event will be directed to the B.T.S.A. Building Fund. Admission is \$10.00 per person & refreshments will be served at intermission. Come & enjoy an afternoon of music.

# Shin Buddhist On-Line Correspondence Course

An exciting learning opportunity is happening!! In response to a growing interest in Jodo Shinshu, the BCC - Living Dharma Centre has established a correspondence course for those new to Jodo Shinshu and those who are already members and wish to deepen their understanding and appreciation.

In preparation for a full launch of the Correspondence course later this year, a ten week pilot program was launched in January 2008 with participants from United States, Canada, Australia, Singapore and Japan. These included Lorita Ichikawa and Renae Barlow of BTSA (Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta).

Within this ten week period, participants engaged in activities anticipated to be part of the full version of study for the fall of 2008. The pilot program topics included: 1) Buddha-Dharma - Sakyamuni Buddha and His Teaching, 2) An Introduction to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, 3) ShinShu II, and 4) History of ShinShu. Each topic came with a 30- 40 page reference document with a list of other resources that could also be sought. An essay was required at the end of each section and there were usually a number of questions to choose from. Once the essay was submitted one or two of the instructors would respond within a couple of days with comments and suggestions. Pilot project participants were

then asked to provide comments, both of a positive and negative, that would improve the quality of the teachings. It was overall a very positive learning experience.

The online version of this course included establishing an online account on Moodle (educational web-based software) from which participants could review the outline of the course, download text material, writing and submit essays, chat with other students, receive feedback from instructors and provide feedback on the course. The feedback from participants will be considered by the organizing committee sometime in early April.

The full version correspondence course will be offered this September and is expected to span two years of part-time correspondence study. More details as to content, workload, and tuitions costs will be forthcoming in the next few months.

As a participant I found the 10 week course informative and thought provoking. I felt the experience served to deepen my appreciation and understanding of Jodo Shinshu and ignited a desire to continue the studies. I am eagerly waiting to enroll in the fall courses. I hope that others feel compelled to take the course or at least participate in the study group that may be created from the ongoing teachings.

— In Gassho Renae Barlow

# BTSA President's notebook

## Temple Construction

If you drive by the new temple site you will notice that there is finally some action on building the new temple. The Building Committee, supported by the board, has agreed to the final cost estimate and this was the last obstacle to the start of construction. Please note that only authorized personnel are allowed to enter the construction site. Permission is required by the contractor to enter the site. So feel free to drive around and monitor the progress but please let the workers do their job. The more they can concentrate of the job the sooner the temple will be completed.

## Chow Mein Supper

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who made the first BTSA Chow Mein Supper a great success. We had lots of volunteers for the various workdays and this made it easier for everyone. See full report to the left.

## A Friendly Membership Reminder

Join the BTSA and become an active member of the Jodo Shinshu movement in southern Alberta. Your membership is now due. The 2008 annual fee is \$50 per member. Please make cheques payable to the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

## Dharma Dragon Boat Team

"Help! Calling all paddlers for the Dragonboat Team - "Three Dead Crabs and a Jellyfish". Early bird registration is the first week of May. For particulars, please contact: Darren Takao email darrentk@telus.net.

## Next BTSA Board Meeting

Thanks to the generosity of the Coaldale members, our next board meeting will be held in Coaldale at the Coaldale Buddhist Church at 2013 18th Street at 7:00pm on Wednesday, April 9. Please feel welcome to attend this and all other board meetings.

# BTSA Fundraising Drive: Please support our new Temple



Artist's rendering of new temple

## PLEDGE FORM



I WISH TO SUPPORT THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal /Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTRIBUTION

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Monthly Instalments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_ years      \_\_\_\_ Yearly Instalments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_ years

\_\_\_\_ One-time Donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_      Notation: (Eg., In memory of) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I wish for my contribution to remain confidential

Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta  
C/O Treasurer Robert Takaguchi, Box 1249,  
Raymond, Alberta T0K 2S0

# BTSA Fundraising Update

to mid-March, 2008

The BTSA now has an official status as a charitable organization. Official tax receipts can now be issued by the BTSA for any charitable donations. Any one wishing to donate to the building fund can make a one time donation or pledge their donation over the next 3-5 years. A plaque with the donors name will be included in our donor wall. The target for the fund raising committee is around \$750,000. The donor levels are as follows:

Diamond =	\$25,000 or greater
Emerald	\$17,500 to \$24,999
Platinum =	\$10,000 to \$17,499
Gold =	\$5,000 to \$9,999
Silver =	\$2,500 to \$4,999
Bronze =	\$1,000 to \$2,499

Please note that we have added an Emerald Level (New donors indicated in italic)

## Diamond Level Donors

- Rev. and Mrs. Yasuo Izumi
- Richard and Sue Kanegawa - In memory of Mr and Mrs Sakuji Kanegawa and Mr Stan Kanegawa
- Noris and Sachiko Taguchi and daughters Louise, Patricia, Teresa and Karen
- Mrs Aiko Yoshihara & Family In memory of Motoharu Yoshihara. Family members - Mark Yoshihara, Ron Yoshihara, Myles Yoshihara, Lucy Woolhouse.
- *Family of Muneo & Toshiko Takeda*

## Emerald Level Donors

- Hideko Oishi and family in memory of Yoichi Oishi
- Sumi, Ken and Jim Tsukishima - In memory of Mitsugi (Father), Sagami and Hisataro Tsukishima (Grandparents), Kaisuke and Yoshino Hironaka (Grandparents)

- Saburo and Kimino Nishi - In memory of Tai-chiro and Eda Nishi and Bonnie Masako Nishi.
- Louise Nishiyama, Jackie and Barrie Robb, Brian J. Nishiyama and Rod Nishiyama - In memory of Jack Nishiyama

## Platinum Level Donors

- D.J. Major and the Hamabata family in memory of Kamasuke Hamabata and Cheryl Prins
- S.K. Ikuta and Family
- Tak and Jan Okamura
- Fujiye Kariatsumari and Family in memory of Tokiyoshi and Katsuo Kariatsumari
- Mas and Miyo Sunada
- Mrs Sadae Kanegawa in memory of Stan Kanegawa
- Akira & Lorita Ichikawa -In memory of Michael Tatsuya Ichikawa
- Tak and Mitsuko Oga
- Yuichi (Posthumous) & Shizuka Akune and family in memory of Ichirohe and Kin Hisaoka
- Tom & Tsuyako Tajiri
- John & Alice Kanashiro
- Floyd & Yuki Okubo - Bountiful Utah
- Shigeru Kounosu - Lethbridge - In memory of Heidi Kounosu.
- *Fujiko Okamura and Family in memory of Masaru Okamura*
- *Kinji & Fuji Takeda*

## Gold Level Donors

- Pat and Roy Sassa in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Tomomi C. Okutake and Mr. and Mrs. Tsuneki Sassa
- Kaz and Setsuko Ohno
- Tomiko Kobayashi
- Calgary Buddhist Temple
- Mr and Mrs Mas Fukushima - In memory of Kiyomi and Mume.

- Koji and Sumiye Itaya in memory of Shizue and Shunji Araki
- Ken and Hiroko Yoshihara in memory of Shintaro and Hisa Fujita & Harutaro and Tamiko Fujita & Harumi Fujita
- Sam & Betty Taniguchi - In memory of Mr & Mrs Yoshiharu Miyada - Mr & Mrs Kizo Taniguchi
- *Hirano & Heaton Architects Ltd.*
- *Tak & Yoko Tsujita*
- *Jim and Joan Nakagawa.*

## Silver Level Donors

- *F. Okamura and Family in memory of Ichirohe & Kin Hisaoka*

## Bronze Level Donors

- Mitsuyo Ohno
- Tom Ohno – (Carp, Ontario)
- Tomomi Saka – (Edmonton, Alberta)
- Mrs Toshiko Hase
- Mrs Kay Higa - In memory of George K. Higa
- Dr. Valerie Boras
- Shinako (Sheila) Higa in memory of Nori Higa
- Grandchildren of Haruto and Tamiko Fujita in memory of Tamiko and Harumi Fujita
- Morison Tanaka - Lethbridge

## Other Donors

- Duane and Karen Yoshihara in Memory of Harumi Fujita
- Tosh & Joyce Saruwatari - Gordon & Joy Saruwatari In memory of Juzo & Aiko Saruwatari - Kohei & Hashime Taguchi
- Tucker Hironaka
- Joanne Tomiyama & Allard Everdingen - Calgary
- Yoshiko Imahashi & Carolyn MacDonald - Calgary
- Ted and Sue Koyata
- *Miyauchi Family - In memory of Shizuo & Tomiko Miyauchi*
- *Reverend Tomofumi Fujii*
- *Natsuko Sawada*
- *Dr. Bruce Todd - In memory of Lorraine Aiko Hinatsu-Todd*
- *Robert & Judy Takaguchi - In appreciation of the Raymond Pioneer Members*

The BTSA greatly appreciates the contribution from the above in starting the fund raising drive.

To date we have raised \$300,000 in donations or pledges.

To make a contribution or pledge please contact Jim Tsukishima (327-1279) mtsfarm@telus.net, Roland Ikuta (317-0078) Rolikuta@shaw.ca or send cheques to Robert Takaguchi (P.O. Box 1249 Raymond, Alberta T0K-2S0).

### Vision

The Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta is dedicated to being an open Jodo Shinshu Sangha organization that appreciates, promotes, preserves and practices the Buddha Dharma teaching.

### Mission

The mission of the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta is to gratefully promote and practice Buddha Dharma teaching through:

• *Communication • Community • Tradition • Education • Resource Development*

### Guiding Principles

A response by the BTSA must always involve the following key factors:

- Ensure that our motivation is a sense of gratitude and compassion.
- Take into account the widest possible perspective.
- Be vigilant in ensuring that we remain honest, self-aware, unbiased and trustworthy; the danger otherwise is that we may fall victim to self-delusion.
- In the face of any real ethical challenge, respond in a spirit of humility.
- Ensure our interaction with the community by promoting dedication, commitment and involvement.
- Strive to keep in mind the primary goal of the wellbeing of humanity as a whole and the planet we inhabit.



## CHOW MEIN SUPPER

Dharma students participated in the BTSA Chowmein Supper on Saturday, March 8.



Photos: Sam and Kai sell beverages (proceeds to the dharma class fund), and Riley serves a customer.

## APRIL SCHEDULE

During the entire month of April, dharma class will meet on Sundays (except April 13) at the **Helen Schuler Coulee Centre** for nature walks. The guided walks begin at 2pm, so please join the dharma group at the front of the centre by 1:55pm. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

If you would like to be added to the Dharma Class email list or need further information, please contact Brenda at 317-0078 or Maya at 380-4330.

**RECIPES WANTED** We ask all members to participate in a BTSA cook book with **personal recipes, stories, poems, artwork and photos.**

BTSA Recipes c/o Maya Ichikawa  
623 - 7 Street South  
Lethbridge, AB T1J 2H2  
or  
btsarecipes@gmail.com



## HANAMATSURI

**Sunday, April 13, 2008  
2pm @ the North Temple  
[corner of 13 St & 13 Ave]  
Lunch to follow**

We welcome families to attend the celebration of Buddha's birthday.

There will be an **Infant Presentation** open to interested parents.

Children will be invited to join the choir for a performance.

Kid-sized tables and chairs will be available upstairs for lunch and following, a **Birthday Party for Buddha.**

## April Schedule 4月の予定表

### April

- 06 (Sun) ..... 10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service at NT  
 ..... 11:15am Study/Discussion Group  
 ..... 2:00pm Coaldale
- 09 (Wed) ..... 7:00pm BTSA Meeting at Coaldale Buddhist Church
- 13 (Sun) ..... 2:00pm Hanamatsuri / Infant Presentation /  
 ..... Installation for BTSA New Officers at NT
- Hanamatsuri guest Speaker: Prof. Marko Hilgersom**
- 20 (Sun) ..... Regular Service (NT)  
 ..... 11:30am -12:30pm Study/Discussion Group
- 23 (Wed) – 25 (Fri) Ministers Meeting (Vancouver) – Rev. Izumi is away.
- 26 (Sat) – 27 (Sun) . BCC AGM (Vancouver)
- 27 (Sun) ..... 10:30am Regular Service (NT)  
 ..... 11:15am Study/Discussion Group

\*All services, including Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service during month of April will be held at the North Temple.

\*All services, including Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service during month of May will be held at the South Temple.

### Study/Discussion Group

Please feel welcome to join in the BTSA study/discussion group on Sundays right after the morning service. The purpose of meeting is to deepen our understanding and appreciation of Buddha's teachings, study the Dharma and facilitate discussion. Each study/ discussion group session will be preceded by a brief chanting lesson.

#### April Schedule

#### April 6

Chanting Lesson  
 Discussion Topic: Buddhism and World conflict – Discussion of conflict from a Shin Buddhist perspective.

#### April 13

No Study Group. Please join Hanamatsuri Service (Buddha's Birthday) at 2:00pm at NT

#### April 20

Chanting Lesson  
 Discussion Topic: Why Juseige is Important.

#### April 27

Chanting Lesson  
 Discussion Topic: TBA

Those who are interested, please contact Renae Barlow (renaeb@telus.net) or Rev. Izumi (382-7024)

## Buddhist Memorial Service 仏教徒の年忌

### Year of Death (死亡年)

- 2007 ..... First annual memorial ..... 1 year from death  
 2006 ..... 3rd anniversary memorial ..... 2 full years from death  
 2002 ..... 7th anniversary memorial ..... 6 full years from death  
 1996 ..... 13th anniversary memorial ..... 12 full years from death  
 1992 ..... 17th anniversary memorial ..... 16 full years from death  
 1984 ..... 25th anniversary memorial ..... 24 full years from death  
 1976 ..... 33rd anniversary memorial ..... 32 full years from death  
 1959 ..... 50th anniversary memorial ..... 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)

## Obon Schedule

### July 13 (Sun)

- 10:00am Magrath Cemetery  
 11:00am Temple Hill Cemetery

### July 20 (Sun)

- 11:30am Brooks Cemetery  
 12:00 Noon Obon Service at Heritage Motel in Brooks

### July 25 (Fri)

- 7:00pm 5th Annual Bon Odori

### July 27 (Sun)

- 1:00pm Mt. View Cemetery Visitation  
 2:00pm BTSA Obon Service

### August 03 (Sun)

- 10:30am Bowlsland Cemetery Visitation  
 1:00pm Taber Cemetery Visitation

### August 10 (Sun)

- 2:00pm Coaldale Obon Service

### Events

#### Taiko Class

Tuesday 6:30-8:30pm at ST.

#### Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Thursday, 7:00pm-8:30pm at ST.

#### Japanese Cooking Classes

The Nikkei Cultural Society of Lethbridge and Area will hold classes in Japanese food (manju, mochi, sushi, etc.) beginning this month. Contact Pat Sassa or Denise Takao

## What is Homyo?

The *Homyo* or Dharma Name (the Buddhist Name) is given to you upon your death by your minister. However, it is ideal that you receive one at the Confirmation Ceremony by Monshu or overseas Bishop. It is a reminder of being a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist. Those who do not have the *Homyo* card for your loved one, please let Rev. Izumi know. He will make one for you. Please bring the *Homyo* card when you come to the Monthly Memorial Service.

## Obituaries

We express our heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost loved ones.

### Mrs. Itsuko Yamada

78 years old  
 March 25, 2008

### Yoshito Winky Kimura

84 years old  
 April 1, 2008

### Mrs. Haruko Tomiyama

100 years old  
 March 5, 2008