



Genuine Bowing

*“The light of wisdom exceeds all measure,
And every finite living being receives this
illumination
So bow to Amida, the true and real light.”
– Hymns of the Pure Land*

Our new temple building, Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta will be completed by the end of this year. Recently I went to take a look inside; it was not my first time. From time to time, I have been able to take a look outside and inside of the temple to see the progress of the construction. Of course there is no Buddhist shrine in the Hondo of the building so it cannot yet be called a Buddhist temple. To be called a Buddhist temple there must be, at least, one object of reverence inside of the building. Strictly speaking, in order to be called a Buddhist temple the following three treasures must be inside the building; the Buddha (An Awakened One of Wisdom and Compassion), Dharma (Universal Law), and Sangha (Gathering of humble listeners of the Dharma). Of these three treasures, the Dharma is the most important. The Dharma is the basis of the Buddha and the Sangha. It is expressed as an object of reverence. Therefore, Buddhist temple is called the place of listening to the Dharma. There is a Japanese proverb: “Read it again and again a hundred times and you will understand its



meaning.” In the same way, “Listen to the Buddha Dharma again and again. Nothing but listening is needed.” If we truly listen we will be able to hear the Mind of Great Compassion (of Amida) which

is moving and working for us and helping us to give our mind up to being one with the Buddha’s Vow expressed in His calling, Namo Amida Butsu. At that moment, the object of reverence- the Amida Buddha - is not merely the object, but our life itself. Here, our genuine bowing appears.

When we are young, our parents or senior members instructed us to bow before coming in the Hondo and after leaving the Hondo. We are told that we bend 45 degrees from the waist without looking at the object. So, we bow our head low deeply. We are told that this is a form and proper attitude in the temple. By repeating the same gesture again and again before and after the service we become accustomed to this simple act of bowing. Soon we master it. But when we get older we start asking why bowing is necessary. We wonder if this bowing is idol worship. As we age we come to know about the meaning of Amida Buddha and why bowing is so important. Then one day we realize that our head is going down naturally and with appreciation before Amida Buddha. Bowing is not some kind of a petitionary act nor is bowing just a custom or habit. We find that, without even knowing, we have been nurtured to respect and appreciate Amida Buddha who is constantly calling to our life of delusion in Namo Amida Butsu. Amida Buddha calls on to us, “Please take refuge in my life!” Now, we know that Namo Amida Butsu is a living Buddha waking us up every day. We are expressing our gratitude to Amida Buddha spontaneously every time when we enter the Hondo. Genuine bowing

is always accompanied with entrusting mind to the working of Amida Buddha of boundless life. We respond to Amida’s work, bowing and reciting Namo Amida Butsu saying “Yes, I take refuge in Amida’s life!” In genuine bowing there is peace and serenity.

*In Gassho,
Yasuo Izumi, Minister-Kaikyoshi*

新しい仏教会

南アルバータに新しいお寺が出来上がります。私事、バンクーバー仏教会に駐在した時は、赴任して3年目に旧会堂が新会堂に成りました。この度は、この地に再赴任して7年目で散在していた仏教会が新会堂としていよいよ完成です。

新会堂が、本当の意味で「仏教会—お寺」に成るためには、仏、法、僧という三宝が必要です。仏(ブツダ)とは、智慧と慈悲のお方です。智慧とは、人生、物事を正しく観る眼(まなこ)です。慈悲とは、その眼がないために苦しんでいる生きとし生けるものへの働きかけです。法(ダーマ)とは、智慧と慈悲の底に流れる世の中の法則を意味しています。そして僧(サンガ)とは、仏法を心の糧として生き、与えられた人生を心豊かに全うしている人々の集まりです。この三宝が具(そな)わっている場所が、本当の「仏教会—お寺」といえます。

皆のお陰で出来上がったこの会堂で、いよいよ仏様のみ教えに親しみ、智慧(限りない光)と慈悲(限りない命)の世界をこの身一杯に頂き、日々を力強く生かしていただきましょう。合掌 いずみ

December 2008

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BTSA President's Notebook



We had a good contingent of members travel to the Alberta Buddhist Conference in Calgary. Thanks to Robert Hironaka and Akira Ichikawa, our ABC committee, for their work in assisting Calgary organize everything. The guest speaker was Rev. Jerry Hirano from Salt Lake City. He gave us some very inciteful and meaningful messages about Living the Dharma Today. There were several other excellent speakers. It was an excellent weekend. We are already looking forward to the 2009 ABC so if you would like to be involved please let one of the board members know. The picture shows the BTSA group singing a fairwell to Ikuta Socho in honour of his retirement.

We are almost at the end of the long wait for the new temple. You will notice on the back page of the Hikari that Rev. Izumi's January schedule contains services that will be in the new temple. We are hopeful that everything will go according to schedule but these dates and locations are subject to change.

Here is what needs to happen for us to take possession. When Wesbridge, the contractor, is ready to turn the building over to the

BTSA, the architect, the BTSA representative (Tak Okamura and/or David Kunimoto), the city inspector and the contractor will walk through the building and check off all of the requirements for us to take possession. When this is done, the builder's insurance will be terminated and our insurance will be started. There will be some additional items to be completed such as installing fire extinguishers and items like that.

The contractor has to wait to give us possession until his sub-contractors and workers are finished the building. So, the chances are that the date of possession will be sometime in early January. If we are very fortunate it will be January 1st but more realistically it will be the middle of January.

There will be some activity before that. The first item that will be moved is the butsudan and we already have a date for that. It will be Saturday, December 20th. If you can help we would like you to mark it on your calendar. Like everything else though, it will be subject to change. We will not know for certain until our board meeting on December 10th.

Speaking of which, the board meeting will

be at the Nikkei Cultural Society building at 13th St. and 2nd Av on Wednesday, December 10th at 7:00pm. Everyone is welcome.

Another item on the agenda for the next board meeting will be a proposal by our Programs and Services Committee for how we are going to organize management of the building. Lorita Ichikawa and Pat Sassa are co-chairs of this committee. As you can imagine, this will be a big undertaking. Again, you are welcome to come to the board meeting and hear what is proposed and provide your input for how we will run the day-to-day operations of the temple. The details of this will not be available until the next newsletter.

So we are rapidly approaching the end of the beginning of the BTSA. It has been a long journey and we have made some remarkable progress. On behalf of the board, as we approach the holiday season, I hope that you are enjoying good health and that you share in our excitement about moving into the new temple. We look forward to seeing everyone together in our new temple!

—David Major

2009 - Buddhist Memorial Service 仏教徒の年忌法要

Year of Death (死亡年)

2008	.....First annual memorial	..... 1 year from death
2007	.....3rd anniversary memorial	..... 2 full years from death
2003	.....7th anniversary memorial	..... 6 full years from death
1997	.....13th anniversary memorial	..... 12 full years from death
1993	.....17th anniversary memorial	..... 16 full years from death
1985	.....25th anniversary memorial	..... 24 full years from death
1977	.....33rd anniversary memorial	..... 32 full years from death
1960	.....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)

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.

BTSA Fundraising Update to mid-November, 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 \$1,000,000. 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

(New donors indicated in italic)

Diamond Level Donors

- Rev. & Mrs. Yasuo Izumi
- Richard & Sue Kanegawa - In memory of Mr & Mrs Sakuji Kanegawa & Mr Stan Kanegawa
- Noris & Sachiko Taguchi & daughters Louise, Patricia, Teresa & Karen
- Additional donation in memory of Kohei and Hashime Taguchi and Tayeko Terakita
- Mrs Aiko Yoshihara & Family - In memory of Motoharu Yoshihara.
- Family of Muneo & Toshiko Takeda
- Coaldale Buddhist Church (\$50,000)
- *Tsuyoshi & Mariko Hironaka*
- *Rosemary Buddhist Temple*

Emerald Level Donors

- Hideko Oishi & family in memory of Yoichi Oishi
- Sumie, Ken & Jim Tsukishima - In memory of Mitsugi (Father), Sagami & Hisataro Tsukishima (Grandparents), Kaisuke & Yoshino Hironaka (Gr&parents)
- Saburo & Kimino Nishi - In memory of Taichiro & Eda Nishi & Bonnie Masako Nishi.
- Rocky & Jean Oishi, Sut & Neva Oishi, Jitsuya & Rae Oishi, Mistuko Oishi and Clay Tippet, Gilbert & Rose Oishi, Hideko Oishi, Yoshiyuki & Lily Oishi, Roy & Luri Nagata, Osami & June Oishi. - In memory of Saneyoshi & Chika Oishi

Platinum Level Donors

- D.J. Major & the Hamabata family in memory of Kamasuke Hamabata & Cheryl Prins
- S.K. Ikuta & Family
- Tak & Jan Okamura
- Fujiye Kariatsumari & Family in memory of Tokiyoshi & Katsuo Kariatsumari
- Mas & Miyo Sunada
- Mrs Sadae Kanegawa in memory of Stan Kanegawa
- Akira & Lorita Ichikawa -In memory of Michael Tatsuya Ichikawa
- Tak & Mitsuko Oga
- Yuichi (Posthumous) & Shizuka Akune & family in memory of Ichirohe & Kin Hisaoka

- Tom & Tsuyako Tajiri
- John & Alice Kanashiro
- Floyd & Yuki Okubo -
- Shigeru Kounosu - In memory of Heidi Kounosu.
- Fujiko Okamura & Family in memory of Masaru Okamura
- Kinji & Fuji Takeda
- Generations Funeral Home
- Mas Terakita - In memory of Jane Terakita
- Makoto Ikuta
- Children of the Fujita Family - in memory of Harutaro & Tamiko Fujita
- * Jack & Rie Nagai family - In memory of Masako Nagai
- * Morison Tanaka, Glen & Pam Tanaka, May & Cliff Thomas - In memory of Asako Tanaka
- Tashiro & Okuma Families - in memory of Kaz, Hatsue & Yoichi Okuma, Yasu & Eiji Tashiro
- Roy Takeda, Barbara Takeda, Gary and Beverly McLroy in memory of Nancy Takeda, our parents, grandparents great grandparents, great great grandparents - Fusajiro & Yoshi Takeda
- * Kaz & Nobs Sugimoto
- Grace Nishimura and family in memory of Takenori Nishimura
- Yoshio Tanaka in memory of Kimiye Tanaka
- Louise Nishiyama, Jackie & Barrie Robb, Brian J. Nishiyama & Rod Nishiyama - In memory of Jack Nishiyama
- *Roy and Nancy Adachi*
- Dr. Leslie & Toyo Kawamura in memory of Rev. Yutetsu & Mrs Yoneko Kawamura
- *Katoye Maruno - in memory of Ysashu Maruno, Juro Tajiri, Shizuka Tajiri*
- *Nobuko Nakagama, Ken & Vickie Nakagama - In memory of Ryutaro Nakagama*

Gold Level Donors

- Pat & Roy Sassa in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Tomomi C. Okutake & Mr. & Mrs. Tsuneki Sassa
- Kaz & Setsuko Ohno
- Tomiko Kobayashi
- Calgary Buddhist Temple
- Mr & Mrs Mas Fukushima - In memory of Kiyomi & Mume.
- Koji & Sumiye Itaya in memory of Shizue & Shunji Araki
- Ken & Hiroko Yoshihara in memory of Shintaro & Hisa Fujita, Harutaro & 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 & Joan Nakagawa.
- Jiro & Mae Sasaki
- Ayako Imahashi - In memory of Tanekichi Imahashi
- Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
- Hajime (Harry) Sugimoto
- Jim & Daisy Oshiro - In memory of our deceased family & friends
- Chizuko Kimura in memory of Toyochi & Haru

- Matsuno and James T. Kimura
- Roy & Minnie Nakatsuru in memory of Osamu & Mayuno Nakatsuru, Denichiro & Iku Kitagawa
- Ted and Joyce Izukawa in memory of the Izukawa and Amemori Families
- Marj Fujita, Scott & Linda Fujita Trent and Chris Fujita and Grandchildren in memory of Harumi Fujita
- Nishimura family in memory of Yosaburo & Maki Nishimura, Misao Tatebe & Kimie Nishimura and Isamu Nishimura
- Hideko Nishi in memory of Yoshinori Nishi, Mr & Mrs H Miyagawa, Jiro, Osamu, Keiko and Masato
- *Shirley N. Higa & Robert Miyagawa - In memory of Hikojiro & Hisae Miyagawa and Jiro Miyagawa.*

Silver Level Donors

- F. Okamura & Family in memory of Ichirohe & Kin Hisaoka
- Ichiro & Rumiko Ibuki, Tosh & Marian Ibuki - in memory of Saichi & Shizuo Ibuki
- Toronto Buddhist Church
- Frank and Kim Ohno
- Mike Kado in memory of Shizu Kado, Yorio Kado and Machiye Kado
- Tadanori and Chieko Sakaguchi
- *Elements and Physical Therapy and Acupuncture Ltd*
- *Tom and Lily Kaga in memory of Natsugro & Sute Kaga, Kinzaemon & Moi Taniguchi & Family*
- *Frazer Valley Buddhist Church*

Bronze Level Donors

- Mitsuyo Ohno
- Tom Ohno - (Carp, Ontario)
- 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 Harutaro & Tamiko Fujita in memory of Harutaro & Tamiko Fujita & Uncle Harumi Fujita
- * Les Higa
- Kimiyo Furukawa in memory of Suey Furukawa
- K. B. Lila, Carly and Stephanie Takeda
- Lethbridge Karaoke Club
- Noriko Oga in Memory of Yoshito Oga
- William and Setsuko Nagai in memory of Matsunosuke and Chiyo Nagai
- Shinyuki and Hisae Kunimoto
- Gene and Shannon Kawade in memory of Shinichi and Shizuyo Kawade
- Kosaka family in memory of Shoyozo and Kinu Kosaka
- Yoshiye Shirakawa
- Kiyoo & Fumiko Chiba
- JSBTC Women's federation
- Joyce Miyashita in memory of Shizuo & Toshiko Miyashita
- Gary Higa in memory of Danna Higa
- The Golden foundation
- Tonarigumi Lethbridge and District Japanese Senioir Citizen Drop In Center

- Mrs. Alice Ohashi in memory of Joe Ohashi
- Miyo Hoyano
- Susumu Nakamura
- Kazumi Oikawa in memory of Masami and Kanako Oikawa
- *Takaaki & Hajime Shigemii*
- *Chojukai*
- *Margaret & Bob Thole - In memory of Mr. & Mrs Hirojo Takeda*

Other Donors

- Duane & 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 & 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
- George & Sharon Nyhoff
- Martha Katsuta - In memory of Yoichi Oishi
- * Yuse & Chiyomi Matsuno
- Tanaka family - in memory of Gene Tanaka
- Keiko Tsukishima - in memory of Tsutomu (Tom)

- Tsukishima & Emiko Catt
- Yosh & Martha Akune
- Setsuko Matsugi
- J. Fukushima Family - in memory of Hiroshi (Harry) Fukushima
- Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada
- Janet & Neil Hinatsu - In memory of Roy Hinatsu and Lorraine Hinatsu-Todd
- Haruko Ikeda
- Ron Kanashiro
- Bishop Orai Fujikawa
- Hiroshi Kitagawa
- Doug Mikado
- Kaz Takaguchi, Michael Takaguchi, Leanne & Earl Fisher In memory of Yoshifumi Takaguchi, Kichizo & Kimi Takaguchi, & Kohei & Hashime Taguchi
- Hiroaki Ohmae In memory of Heidi Kounosu
- Peter Oka In memory of Asako Tanaka
- Hiro & Yoshiko Okishita
- Mary Osaka
- Tomomi Saka - Edmonton
- Seville Land Corporation
- Guek-Yang Tan & MS Guek-Chwee Tan
- Moriguma & Kiyoko Tokunaga
- Hisashi Shimozawa
- Kinuko Matsuno - in memory of Hisashi Matsuno
- Kim and Mits Tsuji in memory of Asakichi & Kimi Tsuji and Torazo & Hisako Fukushima
- Ken and Amy Kurio
- Eietsu Chiba
- Fumi Sugimoto in memory of Nim, Chris, Atsushi Sugimoto and Shiz Ichino
- Tom Mitsunaga and Jean Quan in memory of Nakae

- Mitsunaga
- Kamloops Jodo Shinshu Temple
- Raymond Pharmacy - owner Wayne A smith
- Ken and Wendy Hoyano
- Estuko Osaki
- Alice Kokubo
- Isamu Koyata
- Wanda Tomiyama
- Tsuyu Yasui
- Kasumi Matsuda & Family in memory of Roy Matsuda, Ichirohe & Kin Hisaoka
- Ken & Nidori Tanaka in memory of Asako Tanaka
- Tom and Yoko Matsuno
- Steveston Tera Taiko Club
- Southern Monument & Tile Company Ltd
- Ken Ichino in memory of Kimi Ichino
- Tom & Eileen McKee
- Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro in memory of Saburo & Shizuko Shigehiro
- *Satoru & Grace Ichikawa*
- *Karen Miyakawa in memory of Chiyotoshi Miyakawa*
- *Toshiko & Tsuyako Iwamoto*
- *Brian & Holly Sekiya*

The BTSA greatly appreciates the contribution from the above in starting the fund raising drive. To date we have raised \$750,000 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).

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 _____

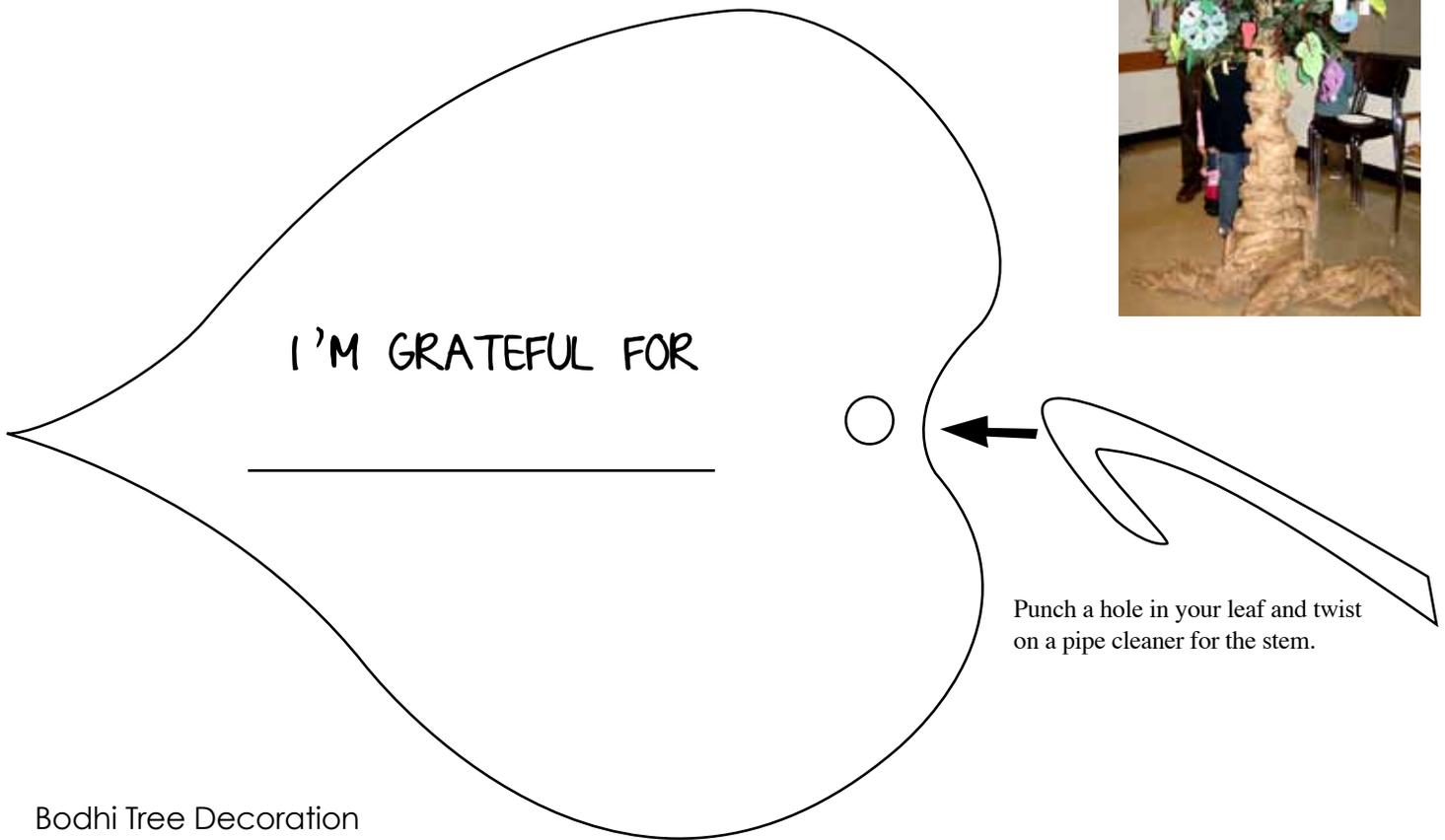
____ I wish for my contribution to remain confidential

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



Bodhi Day

Bodhi Day celebrates the day of the Buddha's enlightenment, when he achieved supreme Wisdom and Compassion. This historic event occurred on December 8.



Bodhi Tree Decoration

Last Bodhi Day the dharma class decorated a Bodhi tree, representing the pipal tree the Buddha sat under before he became the Awakened One (see photos). Above is a template of a Bodhi tree leaf. Make your own ornament and write on it what you are grateful for. Hang it on your own Bodhi tree or Christmas tree (sure, Buddhists can have Christmas trees!).

Southern Alberta Buddhis Choir News
The choir will be taking a break until January 15. The wrap up social December 4 included viewing of the film "Young at Heart," a hilarious and inspirational documentary about a choir of seniors (average age 80).

A Happy New Year to you all!

December and January Schedule

12月と1月の予定表

Everyday Chanting in gratitude (at 10:30am and 6:00pm at BTSA)
 新会堂では毎日午前10時半と午後6時に報恩の読経が行われています。

December

- | | | |
|----------|---------|---|
| 07 (Sat) | 10:00am | Dedication Committee meeting at NCS |
| 07 (Sun) | 10:30am | Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service & Study Discussion Group at Coaldale |
| 14 (Sun) | 10:30am | Regular Service (with no smoking of incense) & Study Discussion Group at Coaldale |
| 20 (Sat) | | Moving Amida Buddha's shrine to the BTSA (subject to change) |
| 31 (Wed) | 11:30pm | Annual Bell Ringing at Nikka Yuko garden (日加友好ガーデンで除夜の鐘) |

January 2009

- | | | |
|----------|---------|--|
| 11 (Sun) | 10:30am | Hoonko Service with Monthly memorial Service at BTSA
報恩講並びに祥月法要
Study/Discussion group at BTSA (Subject to change) |
| 18 (Sun) | 10:30am | Regular Service |
| 25 (Sun) | 10:30am | Regular Service |

Any questions or requests? Please contact your minister- (403)-382-7024

Regular Events

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Thursday, 7:00pm-8:30pm
 Please contact Lorita Ichikawa

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..

Please contact Renae Barlow (renaeb@telus.net) or Rev. Izumi (382-7024)

Year End Bell Ringing

Ring out the old year and ring in the new by striking a note for peace in 2009.

You are welcome to attend the Bell-Ringing ceremony (Joya-no-Kane) at Nikka Yuko Garden on December 31 at 11:30p.m.

This year, the Visitors' Centre of the Garden will be open at 11:00pm for participants. In the event of -20C weather or a blizzard, the event will be cancelled.

Please bring your own flash light!

Monthly Memorial Donations

Memorial Donation (October 23 - November 21, 2008)

Ms. Judy Fukushima	Mr. & Mrs. John Kanashiro
Mrs. Fumi Sugimoto	Mrs. Tomiko Shono
Mrs. Janet Hinatsu	Mrs. Ayako Imahashi
Mrs. Fujiko Okamura	Mr. Gordon Saruwatari
Mr. & Mrs. Kinji Takeda	Mrs. Tomiko Kobayashi
Mr. & Mrs. Masato Sunada	Total.....\$275.00

Mr. Mas Terakita	
Mrs. May Nishikawa	
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hirashima	
Mr. & Mrs. Noboru Sugimoto	
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Tomiyama	
Total.....\$140.00	

Dana Day Donation

Mr. & Mrs. Tak Okamura
Mrs. Matsuno Kinuko
Mr. & Mrs. Noboru Sugimoto
Mrs. Sadae Kanegawa
Mrs. Reko Takeyasu
Mr. & Mrs. Yutaka Matsuno
Mr. & Mrs. Sway Nishimura
Mr. & Mrs. Tak Tsujita
Mrs. Shinako Sheila Higa
Mr. & Mrs. Kinji Takeda

Note From Treasurers

It has been brought to our attention that some members are questioning the fact that they have not received receipts for the donations that they have made to BTSA. What we have been doing is issuing receipts to anyone who has made a donation to the "Building Fund", since the amount is usually much larger and we acknowledge to the donor that we have received the funds. Where we haven't issued receipts is donations made to the "Sandai Hoyo's" and the "Memorial Donations" unless they are not members. Since

we have 248 members and if every members donated four or five times a year, we would be issuing over a thousand receipts in a year. To save costs we decided to issue one receipt to each member for all the donations made by them during the year. The receipt will be sent to them at the end of our fiscal year which is December 31.

(建設資金以外のご寄付は年末にまとめて皆様に領収書を発行いたしますのでご了解下さい。)

If you have any concerns or questions please contact me, Robert Takaguchi (403)752-4012 or Gordon Saruwatari (403)752-4078.

In Gassho,
 Co-Treasurers
 Robert Takaguchi &
 Gordon Saruwatari

Chigo Parade

"Chigo" refers to children between the ages of three to twelve years old. According to tradition, noble households sent their children to temples for their education. While attending the temple, children participated in the temple festivals and ceremonies often dressing up to represent celestial beings.

Both boys and girls wear a robe with long, wide sleeves worn over a hakama or loose trousers. Both boys and girls wear the ancient make-up of the nobility which consists of two black dots just above the space between the eyebrows. The costume is differentiated between the boys and girls by a stiff hat for the boys and a crown of the phoenix bird for the girls.

As one of ceremonial processions, BTSA will provide an opportunity for temple members' children to participate "Chigo Parade" on its dedication ceremony to be held on April 26, 2009 at 9:30am at BTSA compound.

Those who are interested in participating in Chigo Parade please contact: Maya Ichikawa, Brenda Ikuta and Rev. Izumi