



Blue Sky

One morning, I took a short walk. It was a bit chilly but the air was crisp. It was a very beautiful day. The street was clean. All of the snow had melted away. I looked up at the sky. I saw a clear sky with light blue color extended very far. I stopped and looked at the sky for a few moments. I felt tremendous peace and serenity as if I were in the sky. It was embracing me. It became me and I was one with the sky. I felt so good. It was so beautiful.

This is the sky I always liked. The same sky when I was living here some thirty years ago. When I moved to Vancouver and then to Toronto, I always missed the sky in southern Alberta. I came back here again and am enjoying the sky in the same way as before. It appears as though it hasn't been polluted. I long for the sky to remain as it is.

Upon my return to Alberta, I wanted to resume a temple newsletter as I was doing it before. I thought that the name of the newsletter should be "Blue Sky" this time. I thought it would fit well in southern Alberta. Then I found out that the same name was already used for the name of a senior home. So, I decided to use the original name, "Hikari", pronounced "he-kari" meaning "the Light". After



interesting to know that Master Shinran (1173-1262) used metaphors in his "wasan" (Japanese poem) praising that the Pure Land of enlightenment is like the "sky" or "space" because it is endless, broad and boundless. He also states that all beings who are in the Pure Land are like the "sky" as well because their minds are pure and have no discrimination.

I think about Master Shinran who died in Kyoto almost 750 years ago. He used, I am sure, these metaphors, looking up at the blue sky as I see it today in southern Alberta.

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

all, I thought, there will be no blue sky without light. It has been well liked among members. Thanks for all of the support. Nobody, these days, pronounce it "high-kari" anymore.

It is very

「お慈悲の阿弥陀様」

お釈迦様の話なら分かるが、阿弥陀様の話はよく分からない、という方がおられます。両方とも仏様(覚者)ですが、人間世界にお生まれになって、色々と努力修行をして、お悟りの世界に目覚めたお釈迦様の話はよく分かる、という訳です。阿弥陀様は、お釈迦様がお説きになった無量寿経などのお経の中に出て来られる仏様で、歴史上の仏様ではありません。ですから、阿弥陀様の話は分からないと言われるのでしょうか。阿弥陀様は神様のような方かという質問も出てきます。浄土真宗は無量寿経を根本のお経としています。どのお経に心のよりどころをおくか、によって各種の宗派が生まれています。ところで、お釈迦様の話は、よく分かるというのは、頭での理解ではないかと思えます。つまり、人間には煩惱がって、それが迷いの原因であるから、それを修行と不断的努力によって取り除いていけば悟りを得ることが出来る、という道筋です。親鸞様は、ご自分を含め、人間は「煩惱具足の凡夫」と云われました。それは、頭での理解ではありません。そのような凡夫が自らの修行によって悟りを得ることは出来ない、と明らかにされました。これも、単なる頭の理解ではなかったのです。「具足」とは、身にピッタリとついている、と言うことです。体にピッタリとついている「煩惱」は死ぬまで取れません。そのような凡夫の私たちに向って働きかけていて下さる方を、お慈悲の阿弥陀様とお呼びしています。お釈迦様のお心は、あらゆる生きとし生けるものたちが、煩惱に気づくたびごとに、阿弥陀様のお慈悲の働き(お念仏)に目覚めて、安心して、明るく日々を生きよ、と勧められて下さっていることにあったのです。合掌 いずみ

March 2008

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Buddha's Birthday (花祭り)

The celebration will take place at North Temple (at the corner of 13th St. and 13th Ave.) on April 13 (Sun) at 2:00p.m. Lunch will be served by BTSA Fujinkai ladies.

*There will be Infant Presentation Ceremony (初参り) before the service. If you or your friends have infant(s) please bring him or her to the ceremony. It is a great opportunity for parents and infant to come to temple together for the first time. Please contact Rev. Izumi.

BTSA Update

Time is sure flying. It hardly seems like a month since the last newsletter so it is time for an update. At the last meeting the BTSA executive was re-elected so that we could have continuity as we continue this exciting adventure of amalgamating the temples and building a new temple. We are still a couple of directors short to represent members in the Taber area and we hope to have this resolved by the next meeting. Our thanks to Mae Sasaki and Mas Terakita for their service on the board last year.

The building committee reported that the building permit has been approved and the contract with Wesbridge Construction to build the temple has been signed. Our hope is that construction will begin as soon as possible now that winter seems to be over. In other building news, we terminated the janitorial service at the south temple so we will be putting together teams to help with that. The north and south temples were put up for sale through two realtors who are members, Les Higa and Terry Horii. Both buildings have been sold which is good news. Unfortunately, this event coincided with Les becoming ill so we wish him the very best and send our wishes for a speedy recovery. The date of possession of the north temple will be July 1st and for the south temple will be September 30th. The south temple will be available for us to rent in the interim until our move into the new temple.

The Fund-raising committee reported that fundraising is progressing well. They look forward to making a pitch to the other temples

across the country at the Buddhist Churches of Canada Annual General Meeting (BCC AGM) at the end of April.

The Transition committee is putting together a set of policy guidelines for the BTSA. The different temples had different approaches to a number of procedures. We need to find solutions for these procedures that will be satisfactory to everyone. Another tough job is to find an alternative to the Fujinkai groups to find a cohesive system that includes all of the men and women.

Membership in the BTSA has become an issue. The Honpa temple procedure was to let everyone know cost per member to run the temple and then left it up to the members to donate. Other temples had a membership fee that was due by a certain date in order to keep up membership. At the last meeting a Membership Committee was formed that will work to make an accurate membership list. Having an accurate count of our members is important because our BCC dues are determined by the number of members.

Another issue that needs to be resolved is the listing of donor names and the amounts. Two of our temples kept this information private and two temples published donations each month in the newsletter.

The first BTSA Chow Mein Supper is scheduled for March 8 at the south temple. If you are available to help we will be working all day on March 7 cutting vegetables and meat.

Kristie Masuda has volunteered to oversee initial development of a website for the BTSA. The URL will be www.theBTSA.com. It is up and running although keep in mind that it is a work in progress. As yet there are no pictures

so if you have some please let us know.

It was decided at the AGM to pursue a casino license as a fundraiser. I am in the process of writing up an Eligibility for a Casino License.

You can see we are busy and thanks to the hard work of many we are making lots of progress. Again it is difficult to adequately express my gratitude to the board. They are all hard working and cooperative. Probably the best board of directors I have served on. The next meeting will be at the north temple on March 12 at 7pm. Everyone is welcome so we would be pleased to see you there.

— David Major

BTSA Directors

David Major, President
Jim Tsukishima, Vice-President
Akira Ichikawa, Secretary
Robert Takaguchi, Treasurer
Gordon Saruwatari, co-Treasurer
Roland Ikuta
Pat Sassa
Sway Nishimura
Sub Nishi
Noris Taguchi

Chow Mein Supper March 8, 4-6 pm

Call for Volunteers
Final Food Preparation Dates

Mar.7
8:00am meat/vegetable prep ST
mochi manju ST
Mar.8
8:00am dinner / bazaar prep. ST
8:00am sushi prep NT

Lunch will be provided for volunteers

Haru no Tsudoi

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club will hold a concert titled "Haru no Tsudoi" (A Spring Gathering) on Sat. Apr.26th at 2pm, location - 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. Thank you.

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-February, 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.*

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 Taichiro 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.*

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*

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
- Ted and Sue Koyata
- 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 - Kobei & Hashime Taguchi*
- *Tucker Hironaka*
- *Joanne Tomiyama & Allard Everdingen - Calgary*
- *Yoshiko Imahashi & Carolyn MacDonald - Calgary*

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) mts-farm@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.

THE SOUTHERN ALBERTA BUDDHIST CHOIR



The Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir welcomes old, new and future members to our weekly practices:

Thursday

7 to 8:30 p.m.

South Temple

If you enjoy singing, please join us. We will be singing on a regular basis for BTSA services.

Upcoming dates:

March 23 (Sun) Spring Ohigan at ST

April 13 (Sun) Hanamatsuri at NT

Social gatherings of the choir are held the first Thursday of the month following practice.

For further information, contact Katie at 327-4296 or Lorita at 327-1668.



THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA
children & youth dharma classes

RECIPES WANTED

The Children & Youth Dharma Class are planning their next fundraiser.

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

Please send your items to:

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



SABC joined by soloist, Charlotte Ikuta and accompanist on flute, Andrew Ichikawa

When you catch a cold, you cough. I've caught the cold of the Buddha-dharma

And I can't stop coughing the Nembutsu. - SAICHI

March and April Schedule 3月と4月の予定表

March

- 02 (Sun) 10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service at ST
 11:30am – 12:30pm Study Class at ST
 2:00pm – Coaldale
- 08 (Sat) BTSa Bazaar at ST
- 09 (Sun) 10:30am Regular Service at ST
 11:30am -12:30pm Study Class at ST
- 12 (Wed) 7:00pm BTSa Meeting at NT
- 16 (Sun) 10:30am Regular Service at ST (Eshin-ni & Kakushin-ni Day)
 11:30am -12:30pm Living Dharma Center Meeting
- 23 (Sun) 10:30am Regular Service at ST (Spring Ohigan Equinox)
 11:30am – 12:30pm Study Class at ST
- 30 (Sun) 10:30am Regular Service at ST
 2:00pm Hanamatsuri (Rosemary) at Brooks Motel

April

- 06 (Sun) 10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service at NT
 2:00pm Coaldale
- 13 (Sun) 2:00pm Hanamatsuri / Infant Presentation /
 Installation for BTSa New Officers at NT
- 20 (Sun) Regular Service (NT)
 11:30am -12:30pm Study Class
- 23 (Wed) – 25 (Fri) . Ministers Meeting (Vancouver) – Rev. Izumi is away.
- 26 (Sat) – 27 (Sun) .. BCC AGM (Vancouver)
- 27 (Sun) Regular Service (NT)

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

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

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

Regular Events

Study Class

BTSa offers opportunity for people to study Buddha Dharma in group. The Class starts from 11:30am to 12:30pm. right after Regular Sunday Service.

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

Taiko Class

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

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

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

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.

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)

Obituaries

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

Mrs. Miyoko (Miyo) Fujimoto

75 years old

Feb. 5, 2008