



Hikari – The Light

Newsletter of the Buddhist Federation of Alberta

February 2008

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Time Flies

The other morning I was walking along the street. It was a nice day but still chilly. When I passed someone's front yard, I saw a lot of tree branches scattered at the front yard. I looked up the tree and saw a middle aged man who was trimming the tree branches at the top of the tree. I stopped and called out to him, "Be careful! Don't fall!" He looked down at me and said with a smile, "Thank you. You too, be careful."

Walking again I wondered why I had to be careful since I was walking on the street. I thought the man in the tree was the one who must be careful. Then I remembered a Japanese phrase which says "Shi-no-En Muryo" meaning "The conditions of death are innumerable." Yes, it is true. A man who is working at the top of the tree is not necessarily in danger. On the other hand, walking on the street, I am not necessary safe. In one of old Buddhist texts it says, "We do not know what the cause of our death may be, being burned by fire, drowning in water, being struck by the blade of the sword, or dying in bed while



great Vow-Power of Amida Buddha before it is too late.

Shinran Shonin expressed his joy of having encountered the teaching which is true and real as follows: "How joyous I am, disciple of Sakyamuni Buddha! Rare is it to come upon the sacred scriptures from the westward land of India and the commentaries of the masters of China and Japan, but now I have been able to encounter them. Rare is it to hear them, but already I have been able to hear."

sleeping..." We are all living with dying every day. We all must be careful about impermanency of life. This means that we must listen to and appreciate the teaching now and encounter the

— Rev. Y. Izumi

「一瞬の人生」

新年を迎えたと思ったら、もう2月です。時のたつのは全く早いものだと実感できる年になりました。先日会った方から、「75歳くらいですか?」と訊ねられました。10年ほど若いのですが、10年くらいは、あっという間に過ぎます。「いやーもう少し若いです」と訂正するのも面倒になりました。

ある時お釈迦様は、お弟子の方々に「人生はどれくらいの速さで過ぎると思うか」と訊ねました。最初の一人は、「一日一日の早さです」と答えました。次のお弟子さんは、「一時(いつとき)一時の早さです」と答えました。三番目のお弟子さんが「一息一息の早さです」と答えられましたが、その時、お釈迦様はにっこりとほほえみ、大きくうなずかれました。「出る息、入るを待たず」と言われています。明日もあるからと思っているうちに、あっという間に「老いの身」です。元気なときに、み教えを聞き、阿弥陀如来の本願にあわせていただきましょう。合掌 いずみ

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"I am convinced that if more of us could spend a few minutes every day trying to develop a sense of inner peace, eventually it would become part of our lives; then everything we do will contribute to peace in the world."

— the Dalai Lama

First BTSA AGM

On Sunday, January 27th, the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta held its first Annual General Meeting at the south temple. The AGM provides an opportunity for members to get an update on the Board's activities over the past year and to elect a new slate of officers.

Reports were provided by the President, Treasurer and Minister and then by the chairs of the Building, Fundraising and Transition Committees. The Dharma School also provided a report and our representative to the Living Dharma Centre, Lisa Oishi, reported on the recent LDC activities. All of these reports are available if you wish to read them. As soon as they are ready we will post the minutes and reports on the bulletin boards.

The board has accomplished a great deal in its first year. We are registered under the Religious Land Societies Act and with Revenue Canada as a charitable organization. A new temple has been designed and the plans submitted to city hall for approval. Our Fundraising committee is halfway to its objective. The Transition Committee has been

very active working out the wrinkles in amalgamating four congregations. There is still lots to be done and the high level of support and expertise of the board members has been extremely gratifying.

When it came time for electing a new slate of directors, a motion was made and passed that the same slate of officers continue for a second year in order to provide continuity. There was some discussion about whether or not the Fujinkai should have permanent representation on the board but no decision was made on that issue.

The final topic of discussion was whether the BTSA should pursue a casino license. Taber was slated to have a casino in the fourth quarter of 2008. It was decided that we should apply for a license. It is acknowledged that there are some members who are opposed to this form of fundraising.

The next board of directors meeting is scheduled for 7:00pm Wednesday February 6 at the south temple. All members are welcome to attend.

—David Major

Joya-no-Kane 2008 a Success

The 4th Annual "Year End Bell Ringing" (Joya-no-Kane) was held at Nikka Yuko Garden on Dec. 31 at 11:30pm. Despite cold weather of -17C, over 60 people gathered at the Bell Tower in the garden with each bringing a flash light. After a short ceremony and greeting, all participants hit the bell for peace welcoming the New Year 2008 and received an orange.

Itadakimasu

The Shin Fujinkai members of Toronto Buddhist Church have a new cookbook called "Itadakimasu II". It sells for \$20.00 per book and orders can be placed through Reiko Bolick at 328-4201.

**Thank you! \$200.00
Donation to Hikari from
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Kikuchi**

Get Ready for 2008 Chow Mein Supper

March 8, 4-6 pm

Call for Volunteers

It's that time of year again — the annual Chow Mein Supper, which is our major fundraising project. Lots of work needs to be done prior to the big day, so we need help. Please consider volunteering for one or more of the preparation sessions below:

Food Preparation Dates

Feb.8 8:00am	dough making	ST
Feb.8 6:30pm	first dough press	ST
Feb.9 8:00am	mein making	ST
Feb.10 9:00am	dough making	NT
Feb.11 8:00am	mein making	NT
Feb.23 8:00am	manju baking	ST
Feb.23 8:00am	manju baking	NT
Feb.24 9:00am	dough making	NT
Feb. 25 8:00am	mein making	NT
Mar.7 8:00am	meat/vegetable prep	ST
	mochi manju	ST
Mar.8 8:00am	dinner / bazaar	ST
Mar.8 8:00am	sushi prep	NT

Lunch will be provided for volunteers

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

March

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

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-January, 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 bold 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***

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
- Noris Taguchi
- 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 Takumi Oga***
- ***Yuichi (Posthumous) & Shizuka Akune and family in memory of Ichirobe and Kin Hisaoka***

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 and Harutaro and Tamiko Fujita***

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***

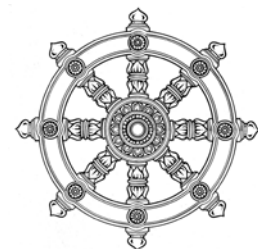
Other Donors

- ***Duane and Karen Fujita in Memory of Harumi Fujita***

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

To date we have raised \$275,000 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.



BTSA dharma students concentrate during a game of Bingo at the annual January Ho-onko gathering.

BUDDHISM & ENVIRONMENTALISM

With the reality of global warming and our natural resources diminishing, society as a whole has become more aware of the interaction between people and the environment. This popular topic of the day, focusing on the wellness of the planet fits with the Buddhist perspective. Buddha taught that all beings are interdependent; Living life in gratitude means being aware that actions taken today will affect all our surroundings for generations to come.

Upcoming dharma classes will look at our relationship with the earth. Students will not only learn the importance of caring for the earth through Buddhist teachings, but will take action. Last year's activity of collecting cans and bottles, and taking them to the depot was not only fun for the kids, but showed them a practical way to participate in the Green cause. Hopefully, these actions will extend beyond dharma class and into students' homes and communities. With this in mind, we will implement a recycling program in the classroom and beyond. As the weather warms, we hope to have more outdoor activities to see the natural environment up close, from nature walks to planting trees to guest speakers.

Outings and projects will be announced via email and posters, but there will be activities available every Sunday after service, so please don't hesitate to come visit.

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.

DHARMA SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE Winter/Spring 2008

The following is a tentative schedule of Dharma class activities. Regular emails will be sent out to confirm upcoming events.

FEBRUARY

Sunday activities will consist of implementing a recycling program in the temple.

February 10 we will take a field trip to Canadian Tire to purchase recycling bins. **For this fieldtrip, we ask older students to let teachers know if they are available to help with supervision.**

MARCH

Saturday, March 8 is the Chowmein Supper at South Temple. Dharma students will be selling refreshments. See sign-up sheet at the temple.

March 16 Kawamura Sensei visits to discuss lessons and activities with dharma teachers and other interested members.

APRIL

Earth Day (April 22) activities/field trips throughout the month

Hanamatsuri TBA: celebration of the birth of the historical Buddha

MAY

Grandparents day potluck TBA

JUNE

Joint Picnic TBA

Weekend of activities for students 12 yrs. & up TBA

No classes July & August

February and March Schedule 2月、3月 予定表

February*

- 03 (Sun) 10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service at NT
2:00pm Coaldale
- 06 (Wed) 7:00pm BTSA Meeting at ST
- 10 (Sun) 10:30am Regular Service at NT
2:00pm Buddhism & Japanese Language Class at NT
- 17 (Sun) 10:30am Regular Service at NT (Nirvana Day)
11:30am – 12:30pm *Study Class at NT
2:00pm Buddhism & Japanese Language Class at NT
- 23 (Sat) 11:00am Buddhist Federation of Alberta Annual Meeting at NT
- 24 (Sun) 10:30am Regular Service at NT
11:30am – 12:30pm Study Class at NT
2:00pm Buddhism & Japanese Language Class at NT

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
2:00pm Buddhism & Japanese Language Class at NT
- 16 (Sun) 10:30am Regular Service at ST (Eshin-ni & Kakushin-ni Day)
11:30am - 12:30pm Study Class at ST
2:00pm Buddhism & Japanese Language Class at NT
- 23 (Sun) 10:30am Regular Service at ST (Spring Ohigan Equinox)
11:30am – 12:30pm Study Class at ST
2:00pm Buddhism & Japanese Language Class
- 30 (Sun) 10:30am Regular Service at ST
2:00pm Hanamatsuri (Rosemary) at Brooks Motel

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

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

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)

Calendar of Events

Study Class

During February and March, there will be a Study Class after Sunday Service starting from Feb.17 (Sun.)

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

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Every Thursday, 7-8:30 pm at south temple.
Contact Lorita Ichikawa

Japanese Language Class

Classes in Japanese language and Buddhism will be held every Sunday afternoon, 2-3 pm at north temple.
Contact Denise Takao.

Taiko Practice

Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm, south temple.

Taber Temple Shrine: Call for stories

The Galt Museum and Archives would like to thank all those who advocated for the Galt as the recipient and steward of the Taber Temple Shrine. The cultural significance of this donation is without precedence. The Shrine is as an invaluable resource in the Museum's ongoing commitment to tell the story of Japanese Canadians in southern Alberta.

Significant time and expertise must be invested into the Shrine prior to its installation in the Museum's Main Gallery. In addition to appraisal, and before cataloguing, the Museum must document the Shrine's origins and historical use. Specifically, the Galt is interested in stories related to the Shrine's 1964 acquisition, Church ceremonies which involved the Shrine, as well as stories about the Church's larger social and community roles. The Museum would also be interested in acquiring photographs or copies of photographs as a visual record of the Shrine's use and context.

For further information, please contact Kevin MacLean, Museum Collections Technician at 320-4064.