



Hikari – The Light

Newsletter of the Buddhist Federation of Alberta

January 2008

Minister: Rev. Yasuo Izumi (403) 382-7024
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A Humble Person

January is called "Shogatsu" in Japanese, which literally means "Right Month". The idea is that if the first month of the year is the "Right" month, then the remaining 11 months would be right. For example, if the first button is put in the right place the rest of the buttons would naturally be placed in the right place. However, we have to be careful that the word "right" here is not used in the relative sense as in "right and wrong" which is how we use it in our daily conversation. "Right", here, means "in accord with" the Truth (Dharma). If January is the month for us "in accord with" the Truth (Dharma), the rest of the months would also be in accord with the truth. If the year is in accord with the Truth (Dharma), our whole life would become "Right". It is human aspiration, therefore, that, in Japanese, we call January the "Right Month". Since we are imperfect beings and do not have the Truth within us, it is impossible to create the



"Right Month" by ourselves. We must rely on the Truth (Dharma). In this sense, although we aspire to become "right" and good person, we must bear in our minds the importance of becoming a truly

humble person. It is the most difficult among difficulties to become a humble person at any time and any place. It is Buddha-Dharma that makes it possible to become humble.

In Gassho,
Yasuo Izumi, Minister

読者の皆様、あけましておめでとうございます!

2008年の新年を迎えました。すべては生まれ、滅びることを思えば、新年を迎えることが出来た、と言うべきでしょう。また、すべては、他と関わって存在していることを思えば、おかげさまで、新年を迎えさせていただきました、と受け取るべきでありましょう。そのように日々を受け取らせていただく、というのがお念仏の徳と言えましょう。すべてを自分中心に見ているのが人間のもって生まれた性格のようです。その性格によって、自分を、他の人を、社会を苦しめていきます。そのような私達に光をあて、一瞬一瞬をおかげさまと受け取れるような「わたし」に育てて下さるのが、み仏の働き、でありましょう。み仏は、今日も、南無阿弥陀仏の呼び声となって働いて下さっているのです。いよいよ聴聞させていただきます。おめでとうございます。

New Year's Greeting

"Immeasurable Light and Life"
At the beginning of the year, I would like to send you my greetings.
May we all continue to live every moment and every day of this year in appreciation of the Nembutsu.

I wonder how you all spent this past year. There are a number of armed conflicts all over the world and climate change seems to have occurred. Those whose work or daily lives have been directly affected by these things must feel particularly threatened, but even those of us who are not directly influenced feel somewhat anxious. All lives are interrelated, and therefore, armed conflicts or climate change cannot be regarded as the problems of other people. We must address them as issues that concern us all.

Some of you may wonder how peace issues and environment concerns are related with the teaching of the Buddha, or how on earth they are connected with being born in the Pure Land to attain Buddhahood. I recognize that the basis of Buddhism is my attainment of enlightenment or my birth of in the pure Land, and so the teaching is not a wonder drug which can immediately solve those problems. Taking into account, however, the fact that the human race has caused serious problems on a global scale by pursuing self-centered desires without careful consideration, you cannot say that Buddhism is not irrelevant to these issues. Buddhists seek enlightenment because actual humans, due to their ignorance and blind passions, constantly cause damage to their own lives and the lives of others, thereby deepening everyone's suffering. It is said that Bodhisattva, who are regarded as ideal beings in Buddhism, can not feel happy unless all other people also become happy. As we have been given only limited amounts of air and water on this planet, let us make every effort to lead a moderate way of life and realize a society where everyone helps each other, so that all are able to live life fully and with joy.

OHTANI Koshin
Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

A Happy New Year to All Readers of Hikari -The Light!

January 2008

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Mochitsuki Workshop

Mochi Made for New Year Services

What's a Buddhist new year without mochi?

Sensei Y. Izumi was among 36 BTSA members who washed, steamed, ground, pounded and dusted prepared 80 pounds of mochi rice Dec. 16 at the North Temple to make kagami (mirror) mochi in preparation for the new year.

Kagami or mirror is meant as a reminder to reflect on one's life during the year, hence kagami mochi. Layers of mochi will be displayed on the najjin or shrine during New Year's Eve (Joya-E) service at the North temple and New Year's Day (Shusho-E) service at the South Temple.

Izumi Sensei also wanted the get-together to serve as a workshop for younger members to learn the process so that mochitsuki (literally mochi-rice pounding) might be continued as an annual BTSA fund-raising event.

—Akira Ichikawa



Photos — David Major

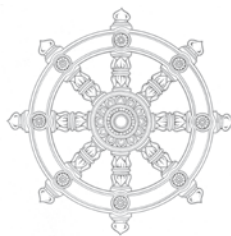


Bake Sale Success

The Transition Committee of the BTSA wish to extend sincere appreciation to all the ladies and families that donated their fine baking and monetary gifts for the first BTSA bake sale.

The funds will be directed towards our "dream kitchen" in the new temple. The gross sales totalled \$1677.85. We look forward to your continued support as we take another step closer to our new building.

Transition Committee
Pat Sassa (chair)



Coaldale Buddhist Church Bodhi Day

Members enjoy Bingo after the service



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.



Artist's rendering of new temple

BTSA Fundraising Update to mid-December, 2007

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 = \$17500 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 Donor

- ♦ Rev. and Mrs. Yasuo Izumi
- ♦ *Richard & Sue Kanegawa - In memory of Mr & Mrs Sakuji Kanegawa & Mr Stan Kanegawa*

Emerald Level Donor

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

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 & 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*

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*

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

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

To date we have raised \$200,000 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).

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



THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA
children & youth dharma classes

Bodhi Day was celebrated in December at the South Temple, in conjunction with Ho-onko. A potluck lunch was enjoyed by all, and members of the dharma class ate the gingerbread men they had decorated earlier as an activity. Temple members and guests were asked to write, "I am grateful for ...", on paper bodhi tree leaves. The leaves were then put on the bodhi tree, along with Buddhist-themed ornaments the dharma class had made during previous classes.

The dharma class looks forward to more fun and learning in the new year. The dharma committee will meet with Lisa Oishi, Alberta representative for the *Living Dharma Centre*, to discuss the dharma curriculum at other Canadian temples.

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

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

January & February Schedule

1月、2月 予定表

January

1 (Tue)	10:30am Shusho-e (New Year's Day Service at ST
6 (Sun)	10:30am Regular Service at NT
9 (Wed)	7:00pm BTSA Meeting at NT
13 (Sun)	Rev. Izumi is away (Jan. 10 – Jan. 15)
20 (Sun)	10:30am Coaldale (Hoonko Service) 2:00pm Shotsuki Monthly Memorial and Hoonko Service at NT and New Year's Party
27 (Sun)	10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service at ST / BTSA AGM*

February*

03 (Sun)	10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service at NT / Coaldale (2:00pm)
10 (Sun)	10:30am Regular Service at NT
17 (Sun)	10:30am Regular Service at NT
24 (Sun)	10:30am Regular Service at NT

*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.

*BTSA AGM (Jan. 27): The Annual General Meeting will begin followed by the service and pot-luck lunch at South Temple.

Calendar of Events

Jan 27 BTSA AGM

The Annual General Meeting will begin followed by pot-luck lunch. South Temple

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Every Thursday, 7-8:30 pm at south temple.
First practice of the new year: January 3

Japanese Language Class

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

Taiko Practice

Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm, south temple.
Jan 8—New session & beginner orientation
Contact David Tanaka, ph. 330-1548
david@eyesquared.com

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.

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. Tayeko Terakita

78 years old

Dec. 25, 2007