



True and real word

*When we say “Namo Amida Butsu,”
Which surpasses all other virtues,
Our heavy obstructions of delusion – past,
present, and future-
Are all unfailingly transformed, becoming
light.*

- Shinran Shonin (1173-1262)

“Namo Amida Butsu” which we utter, is not a spell to satisfy our ego, for it is the calling voice of Amida, true and real and sincere, urging us to be born into the realm of spiritual freedom. “Namo Amida Butsu”, the working of Amida, penetrates in our daily lives and minds and, eventually, alters, transforms and makes the various obstructions in our life small and slight.

I would like to share a personal experience with you in order to relate this point.

During my school years in Japan, I wanted to travel to North America. For this purpose, I worked various odd jobs and made some money. Right after finishing school, I was able to buy a one-way ticket to Los Angeles by boat. In those days, the boat stopped in Hawaii and San Francisco before reaching Los Angeles (I am talking about



something that happened some 40 years ago!). In Los Angeles, a Japanese immigrant gave me a job as a dishwasher at a restaurant located in Japantown.

A few months later, with the

extra money I earned, I was able to visit New York by bus. Fortunately, I found a job for two months at a Japanese restaurant in New York. This time I was a kitchen helper making tempura. A middle-aged chef taught me how to make a tempura dish.

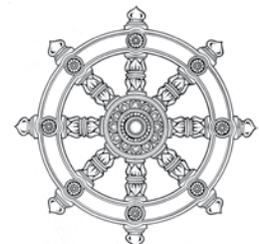
During that time I had an unforgettable experience. One day, I was standing and watching beside him while he was teaching me how to make tempura. He accidentally splashed tempura oil which was extremely hot onto my left arm. Obviously he knew what he had done but he ignored it and kept teaching me with no apology. I resented it but did not say anything. After that incident, although I continued to help him as a kitchen helper, I was not happy with him. Instead, my feelings of resentment grew everyday inside of me. Two months quickly passed. On the last day of work, he brought a large plate covered with a white napkin. Taking the napkin off, he said, “I made this for you.” I saw a dish of raw fish, sashimi, beautifully arranged and decorated in a circle on the plate. Then he shyly said, “I am sorry about that time. I wish you good luck.” When I heard his words, my resentment and ill-feeling toward him instantly and immediately disappeared. With his words, we both became free of our burdens and obstructions.

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

「真実の言葉」

バンクーバーの会議で戻ってきた翌日、お葬式をお勤めいたしました。参列者のお一人が式後、「日本から戻ったばかりでお疲れでしょう。」と言われました。しばらくすると、もう一人の方が来られて「トロントから戻ったばかりとか。。。」実際にはバンクーバーから戻ったばかりだったのです。人の話と言うのはこのようなものです。当てにはなりません。「うわさ」という漢字は「噂」とあります。「口」と「尊い」の合成語ですが、「噂」というのは、余りいい意味では使われません。「うそ(嘘)」という漢字は、その点はっきりしています。本当のことではないことが、口から出ているのです。時には、それは、ひとを泣かせ、おとしめ、苦しませることがあります。噂や、嘘は、この世の中から消えることはありません。それだからこそ、私たちは、仏様の真実の言葉、決して変わらぬ言葉に耳を傾けるように、心がけねばならないと思います。真実の言葉は、必ず、よき実りを伴うものです。合掌
泉康雄

(開教使)



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BTSA President's notebook

The Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC) is the new name of the Buddhist Churches of Canada. The JSBTC held its Annual General Meeting on April 25-27 in Vancouver. It was a well-run meeting and we had good representation from the southern Alberta temples. Congratulations to the Vancouver Buddhist Church for putting on a first class meeting.

The spirit of the meeting was very encouraging. The JSBTC Board and the delegates exhibited a very cooperative atmosphere throughout the meeting and we finished up in record time.

Attendees from the BTSA were Akira Ichikawa (Lethbridge north), David Major (Honpa), Jim Tsukishima (Taber), Donna Dubbelboer (Women's Federation), Rev. Izumi (Minister's Association) and Lisa Oishi (Living Dharma Centre). Lorita Ichikawa also attended. There were pre-meetings of the MA and the Board of Directors on Thursday and Friday and a meeting of the temple presidents on Friday evening. David Major presented an update of what is happening in southern Alberta with the BTSA prior to the temple

meeting on Friday and again on Saturday afternoon for the WF.

As has been the case in the past few years, reports and resolutions were sent out to all delegates in advance of the meeting so that the delegates could read everything before the meeting. So instead of the AGM going into a second day the meeting was completed by 3:30pm on Saturday. This is a welcome change as it allows the delegates to enjoy the banquet without worrying about how the AGM will end up the next day.

Toward the end of the AGM there were several developments that were important for the BTSA. One is that the JSBTC was notified that as of the end of this AGM there would no longer be Taber, Lethbridge or Lethbridge Honpa temples and the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta will be the replacement. Three new directors were elected to the board of directors. One of these was Jim Tsukishima who went on to being elected JSBTC Treasurer at the post-AGM directors meeting. Congratulations Jim!!! Wrapping up the AGM Jim made a presentation of the Support the Legacy, inviting other temple mem-

bers to help us with the BTSA building fund. And finally, we volunteered to host the JSBTC AGM next year. This was a popular choice as everyone is anxious to see our new temple.

At the banquet on Saturday evening Socho Ikuta was honoured for fifty years of service to Buddhists in Canada. It was a touching evening full of emotions such as happiness, humour, sadness,....and reflection. On a lighter note, Akira showed his artistic talents with a poem set to "on top of old smokey" that the BTSA delegates performed. This was a definite hit.

The program on Sunday started with a service and continued with three more post-AGM meetings. Throughout the meeting the Vancouver members went overboard to make our visit productive and enjoyable. The last word has to go to thanking them for being such terrific hosts and hostesses. We will need to work hard to match their hospitality in 2009. If you are able to help with the AGM, in any capacity, please let me or one of the directors know.

—David Major



Thank you for your donation!

Hanamatsuri Donation: Total - \$5,695.00
Memorial Donation (March 15 - April, 15, 2008)

Mr. Dick Adachi, Mr. & Mrs. Ross Fujino, Fukuoka Kenjin-kai, Ms. Masa Goshinmon, Dr. Robert Hironaka, Mrs. Tomi Hisaoka, Mr & Mrs. Ichio Ibuki, Mr. Ken Ichino, Mr. & Mrs. John Kanashiro, Mrs. Katie Nakagawa, Mrs. Fumi Nakama, Dr. Kazuo Nakamura, Mr. Sonny Nakashima, Mr. & Mrs. Kaz Ohno, Mrs. Hideko Oishi, Mrs. Kay Okugawa, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Sassa, Dr. & Mrs. Yoshio Senda, Mr. & Mrs. Noboru Sugimoto, Mrs. Toshiko Tanaka, Ms. Emy Tokitsu, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Tomiyama, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Tomiyama, Dr. T. Yoshida, Mrs. Aiko Yoshihara \$1,175.00

NOTICE

To all members of the
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Sunday May 25, 2008

Time: 1:00pm (approx.) following regular schedule

Location: south temple

Agenda:

- by-law amendments
- new temple building status
- temple fundraising status



HANAMATSURI CELEBRATION

Dharma students enjoyed the April Hanamatsuri Celebration with songs, card-making and a birthday cake.



NATURE WALKS IN MAY

The dharma class would like to continue meeting for nature walks on Sundays, 2pm at the Helen Shuler Coulee Centre. Updates on this event will be sent via email throughout the month.



PITCH-IN CANADA



DATE CHANGE!

Sunday, May 4, 2008 | 2pm
Grounds of South Temple
3611 Forestry Ave. S.

Due to the wet, snowy weather at the end of April, the **Pitch-In Canada** Clean Sweep activity of cleaning the grounds of the South Temple has been postponed to Sunday, May 4.

All BTSA members and friends are invited to join the dharma class in beautifying the temple surroundings. Garbage bags and water provided. Please dress appropriately. Gardening gloves are recommended.

May and June Schedule 5月と6月の予定表

May

- 04 (Sun) 10:30amShotsuki Monthly Memorial Service at NT
11:15amStudy/Discussion Group
2:00pmCoaldale
- 11 (Sun) 10:30amRegular Service (ST) / Parents Day
- 14 (Wed) 7:00pmBTSA Meeting at Heritage Inn in Taber
- 18 (Sun) 10:30amGotan-e Service (Shinran Shonin's Birthday)
- 25 (Sun) 10:30amRegular Sunday Service at ST
11:15amStudy/Discussion Group
1:00pmBTSA Meeting

June

- 01 (Sun) 10:30amShotsuki Monthly Memorial Service at NT
11:15amStudy/Discussion Group
2:00pmCoaldale
- 08 (Sun) 10:30amClosing Service (Lethbridge Buddhist Temple)
- 10 (Tue) 7:00pmBon Odori Practice starts at ST
- 15 (Sun) 10:30amRegular Service (ST)
11:15amStudy/Discussion Group
- 17(Tue)-20(Fri)Rev. Izumi is away for Ministers' Meeting
- 22 (Sun) 10:30amRegular Service (ST)
11:15amStudy/Discussion Group
- 29 (Sun) Summer Break
2:00pm Rosemary (Heritage Motel in Brooks)

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)

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 Bowl Island 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

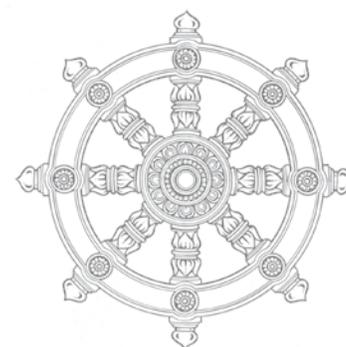
Thursday, 7:00pm-8:30pm at ST.

Bon Odori Practice

Starts on June 10 at 7:00pm at ST
Every Tuesday at 7:00pm at ST until July 22

Bon Odori

July 25(Fri.) from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at Galt Gardens



Obituaries

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

Mr. Yoshiyuki Oishi

81 years old
April 21, 2008

Mrs. Kinuko Tanaka

80 years old
April 22, 2008