At the beginning of the year, I would like to send you my greetings from Hongwanji, Kyoto. May we all live our lives cherishing everyday and reflect that all lives, including my own, are illuminated and embraced by the light and compassion of Amida Tathagata.

The restoration of the Hongwanji Founder’s Hall will soon be completed. In the midst of the cold in January 1999, following the completion of Rennyo Shonin’s 500th Memorial Services, the ground-breaking ceremony was conducted. In June of the same year, the image of Shinran Shonin was moved from the Founder’s Hall to the Hall of Amida Buddha. For the ten years since that time, the restoration work has been carried out without any serious problems thanks to your generous donations, public subsidy, and the efforts of many professionals.

Historians describe Shinran Shonin as having lived in temporary lodgings throughout his life because he had never built a temple. They may be correct. The Hongwanji’s Founder Hall was not built because of a request made by Shinran Shonin. Rather, the structure was erected by the many people who highly regard him. I have no doubt that they made great efforts to express their respect and adoration for him. Constructed in an era when there was no electricity, they used their ingenuity to make the best use of natural light and sound. The main entrance to the Hall is on the east side because the Pure Land is believed to be in the west and it is a custom for members to hold Buddhist services facing west. However, it is really impressive to have the sunlight shining into the Hall during the morning service at Hongwanji. Moreover, a treasure of Hongwanji is seeing and hearing Jodo Shinshu Buddhists from throughout the country who have gathered in the Founder’s Hall, chanting Shoshinge with all their heart.

In the Founder’s Hall, I can feel the joy and sadness of those who have paid homage there for 370 years. You can visit the Hall with your friends and family on an occasion of a Buddhist service, or you can visit alone and quietly engage in a dialogue with Master Shinran. Either way is appropriate when visiting Hongwanji.

It may not be easy for overseas district members to visit the Hongwanji in Kyoto, but I hope that you will be able to come to Honzan when you have a chance to visit Japan. Also, I sincerely hope that you would have Shinran Shonin and Hongwanji in your mind while you chant Shoshinge in front of the Buddhist altar in your home or in front of the image of Amida Buddha at your local temple.

January 1, 2009

OHTANI Koshin

Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

New Year’s Greeting “Immeasurable Light and Life.”

年頭の辞

光寿無量

新しい年の初めにあたり、京都の本願寺より挨拶申し上げます。今年も、
如来の智慧と慈悲に、照らされつつまれた私であり他のいのちであることを日々を大切に過ごしましょう。

本願寺では、いよいよ御影堂の修復が完了です。昭和五十年の翌1999年1月、寒さの中、叡正が行われ、6月には、宗祖親鸞聖人在時の阿弥陀堂においてお祝いいたしました。それ以来10年、皆さまのご懇願と励、専門の方々のご尽力で、修復工事が順調に進みました。

歴史家は、親鸞聖人がお寺をお建てになることなく、仏住まいのご一生で言うなり。その通りでありますよ。本願寺の御影堂は親鸞聖人がお作りになったのではないでしょうか。親鸞聖人の霊魂が宿る堂は、仏の教えを伝える場です。御影堂が栄光に立たすお寺の光を、たびたびに心に刻んでおきましょう。在日帰化の事を考えると、海外諸尊者たちが時を同じくして香港の本願寺へ、親鸞聖人の霊を授け、本願寺の特色があると思います。

海外の皆様には、簡単にお参りいただくことができませんが、訪日の折には、お参りしていただきたく思いますとともに、平生は、ご自宅の、あるいは、こちらの諸寺や仏教信者のご本尊の前で、親鸞聖人に聖徳を、本願寺を思いながら、お仏唱えをいただき、まことに有難いことです。

2009年１月１日

淨土真宗本願寺派
門主 大谷光真
How did you spend your winter break? During the holiday season, one of our daughters came to visit us from Toronto with her husband and their three children aged 5, 4 and a 4 month old baby. It was quite an exciting and chaotic twelve days for us in our home. My wife planned well for the situation. She spent almost one month contemplating and preparing for the way she would feed them for their visit. First, she spent a lot of time making a daily menu: 36 meals plus snacks. Then she went shopping, bought all the groceries, meats, necessary ingredients and so on. She prepared their daily necessities, remembering to buy extra boxes of kleenex in case anyone should have a cold. (Sure enough they did!) She also thought of activities and games for them to play. And of course, she cleaned their rooms for them to sleep. When I saw her working and preparing diligently for her children and grandchildren, the above quotation came to my mind.

The quotation was once uttered by Shinran Shonin before Yuien, his disciple and the author of Tannisho. Shinran’s words here were religious sentiment and expressed from his experience of encountering Amida and His Vow. Shinran took Amida’s five kalpas’ contemplation personally and literally and appreciating it deeply with great joy. He encourages us to have the same experience of joy and appreciation in our lives.

Five Kalpas

“When I carefully consider the Vow which Amida Buddha brought forth after five kalpas’ contemplation, I find that it was solely for me, Shinran, alone.” - from Tannisho

Amida Buddha is the personification of true and real life. Amida’s Vow is the vow to bring all sentient beings to His life of Enlightenment; a life which is true, real and sincere. In order to deliver all sentient beings from their life of delusion to the life of Enlightenment/Pure Land, it is said that Amida spent five kalpas in contemplation and preparation. A “Kalpa” is an extremely long period of time beyond human calculation. One interpretation of “kalpa” is as follows: imagine a huge rock of 4 cubic kilometers. A heavenly being with a feather robe flies down once every three years and touches the rock. One day in the future the rock will be worn out. That length of time is considered one kalpa!

Even a grandmother prepares many things for her children and grandchildren for their relaxation and comfort for a short stay. Amida spent five kalpas in contemplation for our spiritual liberation. This is not just a story. Amida’s five kalpas of contemplation also symbolizes the depth of human delusion. When we reflect deeply on our own depth of delusion and blind passions, we are grateful for the Vow of Amida who resolved to ensure all sentient beings are liberated from ignorance to wisdom, darkness to light and delusion to Enlightenment/Pure land.

In Gassho,
Namo Amida Buddha in gratitude.
Yasuo Izumi, Minister-Kaikyoshi

The Members’ Fund Raising Dinner and Silent Auction is to be held in the new Temple on Feb. 23, 2009, and we invite all members, guests and friends to attend.

ADULTS ......................... $50
(with a $25 donation receipt)
STUDENTS 14 - 25 ............ $25
CHILDREN 6 - 12 ............ $12
5 yrs & under ................. free

Committee members will be phoning but you may call for tickets to (Jan - 327.0464), (Mary - 328.8757) or (Betty - 329.0548). Silent Auction items will be appreciated.
BTSA FUNDRAISING UPDATE through December 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DIAMOND</td>
<td>$25,000 or greater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLATINUM</td>
<td>$10,000 to $17,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SILVER</td>
<td>$2,500 to $4,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRONZE</td>
<td>$1,000 to $2,499</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(New donors indicated in bold print)

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

**PLATINUM Level Donors**
- Michael Tatsuya Ichikawa
- Mas & Miyo Sunada
- 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 Ogata
- Fujio Kariatsumari & Family in memory of Tokiyoshi & Katsuo Kariatsumari
- Mas & Miyo Sunada
- Mrs. Sadae Kanegawa in memory of Stan Kanegawa

**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 (Grandparents)
- Saburo & Kimino Nishi in memory of Taichiro & Eda Nishi & Bonnie Masako Nishi

**GOLD Level Donors**
- Pat & Roy Sassa in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Tomomi C. Okutake and Mr. & Mrs. Tsuneki Sassa
- Kaz & Setsuko Ohno
- Tomiko Kobayashi
- Calgary Buddhist Temple
- Mr. & Mrs. Mas Fukushima in memory of Kiyomi & Mume
- Koji & Sumiko Ibaya in memory of Shizu & Shunji Araki
- Ken & Hiroko Yoshihara in memory of Shinataro & Hisa Fujita, Harutaro & Tamiko Fujita and Harumi Fujita
- Sam & Betty Taniguchi in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Yoshiharu Miyada and 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 Toyoichi & Haru Matsuno and James T. Kimura
- Roy & Minnie Nakatsu in memory of Osamu & Mayuno Nakatsu, Denichiro & Iku Kitagawa
- Shirley N. Higa & Robert Miyagawa in memory of Hikojirou & Hisae Miyagawa and Jiro Miyagawa
- Ted and Joyce Izukawa in memory of the Izukawa and Ameori Families
- Marj Fujita, Scott & Linda Fujita, Trent and Chris Fujita and Grandchildren in memory of Harumi Fujita
- Nishimura family in memory of Yasaburo & 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 Hikojirou & Hisae Miyagawa and Jiro Miyagawa
- Terry Horii & family in memory of Tom Horii
- Suzi & Dorothy Tomita in memory of Mrs. Tsuru Nakamura
- Ben & Florence Shikaze

**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 & Kim Ohno
- Mike Kado in memory of Shizu Kado, Yorio Kado and Machiy Kado
- Tadami and Chieko Sakaguchi
- Elements Physical Therapy & Acupuncture Ltd
- Tom & Lily Kaga in memory of Matsugoro & Sute Kaga and Kinzaemon & Moin Taniguchi & Family
- Fraser Valley Buddhist Church
- David & Val Kunimoto in memory of Chikao, Kazu & Mutsumi Kunimoto

**BRONZE Level Donors**
- Mitsuyo Ohno
- Tom Ohno, Cans, 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
- Kiyomi Furukawa in memory of Suey Furukawa
- K. B. Lila, Carly and Stephanie Takeda
- Lethbridge Karaoke Club
- Noriko Ogai in memory of Yoshiho Oga
- William & Setsuko Nagai in memory of Matsunouseki & Chiyoh Nagai
- Shinyuki & Hisae Kunimoto
- Gene & Shannon Kawade in memory of Shinichi & Shizuyo Kawade
- Kosaka family in memory of Shoyo and Kinu Kosaka
- Yoshiy Shiraoka
- Kiyoo & Fumiko Chiba
- 35BTC Women’s Federation
- Joyce Miyashita in memory of Shizuma & Toshiko Miyashita
- Gary Higa in memory of Danna Higa
PLEDGE FORM

I wish to support the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

Name ________________________________

Company ________________________________

Address ________________________________

City ___________________ Province/State _______ Postal/Zip Code _______

Phone ___________________ Email __________________

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION ________________________________

_____ Monthly Instalments of $ _______ for _____ years

_____ Yearly instalments of $ _______ for _____ years

_____ One-time Donation of $ _______

Notation (e.g. In memory of) ____________________

Signature ___________________ Date __________

Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta  •  c/o Robert Takaguchi, Treasurer  •  Box 1249  •  Raymond, AB T0K 2S0
As of last month, our Fundraising Committee announced that our donations and pledges had passed the one million dollar mark. This is an amazing milestone. On behalf of the board of directors, thanks to each of you who have committed to this fund, and to the Fundraising Committee. We still need donations so if you are planning to and have not yet done so please do so. Our Fundraising and Building Committees are now working on the final details of the donor wall so there is still time.

On a chilly December 20, 2008 about a dozen volunteers moved the Butsudan from its storage at the Coaldale temple to its home at the new BTSA temple. Thanks to the Coaldale members for storing the Butsudan and to those who came out to move it and photograph this historic occasion.

At our last board meeting on December 10, 2008 the Membership Committee reported on their deliberations about what the 2009 membership fee should be. The plan is for the Membership Committee to make a recommendation to the board and then the board will make a recommendation at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The BTSA currently pays $55 per member per year to the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC).

The costs of operating the new temple are not known yet. They will probably be in the neighbourhood of $25,000. Other costs are expected to be more than $100,000 and bridge-financing expenses might add $35,000.

Projected income, such as membership fees, donations, holding one chow mein supper and one bazaar and bake sale, will fall short of expenses. Discussions will be needed to get our income and expenses to balance.

The board of directors has set Sunday, March 1, 2009 as the date for the AGM. I encourage each of you to ask questions of our board members so that you are fully aware of our situation and to attend the AGM to make your views known.

The new temple will be ready to occupy early in January and our hope is to hold Hoonko in the new temple on January 11, 2009. Before that we will be looking for help to move into the new building. The Program and Operations Committee is organizing Tobans that will look after the temple and are organizing how everything should be done. The co-chairs of the P&O committee are Lorita Ichikawa and Pat Sassa. They are doing a terrific job of getting everything organized so that the move will be smooth.

The coming year will be one for the history books for the BTSA as we move into the new building. There are still many unknowns and lots of challenges facing us, but we have proven in the last year that our members have the strength and courage to see these through.

On behalf of the BTSA Board of Directors please accept our best wishes in the New Year.

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O-Chigo Parade

“Chigo” refers to children between the ages of three to twelve years old. (“o” is an honorific prefix.) 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.

BTSA will provide an opportunity for temple members’ children to participate in a ceremonial procession, “O-Chigo Parade” at its dedication ceremony to be held on April 26, 2009 at 9:45am at BTSA. (Please come by 9:00am for preparation and photo at Dharma Class)

Those who are interested in participating in O-Chigo Parade please contact: Maya Ichikawa, Brenda Ikuta or Rev. Izumi
A Happy New Year to you all!
2009 January & February Schedule

January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 (Sun)</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Regular Service (subject to change)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 (Wed)</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>BTSA Board Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 (Sun)</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>English Regular Service (subject to change)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 (Sun)</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Hoonko Service with Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service</td>
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February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 (Sun)</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08 (Sun)</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Regular Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 (Sun)</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Nirvana Day Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 (Sun)</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Regular Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 (Mon)</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Nirvana Day Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 (Sun)</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Regular Service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any questions or requests? Please contact your minister 403.382.7024

December Memorial Donation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Roy &amp; Nancy Adachi</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>2009-12-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Ichio Ibuki</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>2009-12-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Frank Ohno</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>2009-12-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Noboru Sugimoto</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>2009-12-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Eichi Tanaka</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>2009-12-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Ken Yoshihara</td>
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<td>2009-12-31</td>
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Total $460.00

Other Donations

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Akira Ichikawa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. John Dubbelboer</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calgary Buddhist Temple</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Jim Tsukishima</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
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Total $1,400.00

Donation to “Hikari”

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<tr>
<td>Ms. R. Sudo (Cranbrook)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Chizuko Kimura (Edmonton)</td>
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Total $200.00

2009 Buddhist Memorial Service

<table>
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<th>Year of Death</th>
<th>Memorial Type</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>First annual memorial</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>3rd anniversary memorial</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>7th anniversary memorial</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>13th anniversary memorial</td>
<td>$12,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>17th anniversary memorial</td>
<td>$16,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>25th anniversary memorial</td>
<td>$24,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>33rd anniversary memorial</td>
<td>$32,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>50th anniversary memorial</td>
<td>$49,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Handbood 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.

Regular Events

*Please feel welcome to join in the Study/Discussion Group on Sundays right after the morning regular service. The purpose of meeting is to deepen our understanding and appreciation of Buddha’s teachings, study the Dharma and facilitate discussion. (勉強会)
Please contact Gordon Saruwatari (403.752.4078)

Coming Events

Fundraising Dinner …… February 23 (Mon)
BTSA AGM ……………… March 1(Sun)
BTSA Obon Service …… July 19(Sun)
Southern Alberta Buddhist Temple
Every Thursday, 7:00 - 8:30pm
Please contact Lorita Buddhist Choir

Meetings

BTSA Board Meeting …… Tuesday from 6:30 - 8:30pm
Please contact David Tanaka 403.330.1548 or david@eyesquared.com

Other Events

Study/Discussion Group will be held following English Regular Service.

A Happy New Year to you all!