



A Wise Teaching



At the beginning of this year our temple received 75 copies of a daily calendar from a Buddhist organization called "Society for the Promotion of Buddhism" in Japan. The calendar was meant to be hung, and a page flipped over every day. A wise teaching is written in beautiful calligraphy with an English translation. I hung one on the temple bulletin board and piled the others on a small table at the entrance for regular members and visitors. Soon all the calendars were gone.

One day, I flipped pages of the calendar, checking what the word would be for the coming Sunday. "We see faults of others, but none of our own", the English translation read. I noticed it was not a word-for-word translation from Japanese, as two Japanese kanji characters meaning "one inch" and "one foot" were not translated into English. So, I translated it, "We can see even 'one inch' of faults in others but cannot see 'one foot' of faults in ourselves." I stood in front of the calendar for a while, thinking that my English translation might be better than the one in the calendar.

Suddenly, I realized that the calendar was not meant to compare the translation of English and Japanese, but was meant to let people know a simple truth of life. It occurred to me that the wise teaching in the calendar was revealing exactly the kind of person I was. I should not have read the words objectively and intellectually but rather should have taken it as my lesson. The wise teaching was really good material for my reflection and appreciation of life.

Venerable Rennyō (1415-1499), eighth head priest of the Hongwanji said, "If one sees that he has a fault he must realize that the fault must be very grave indeed for him to recognize it himself; thus, he must take steps to correct his fault. Because it is difficult for us to see many of our faults we should listen to the advice of others."

We tend to think that I have no faults even when someone pointed them out. With this kind of arrogance, we judge and blame others instead. From the eyes of the Buddha-Truth, we are indeed "bonbu", foolish beings full of blind passion. Being "bonbu", it is difficult to recognize our own faults.

The other day, I had a telephone call from a woman. Her voice was soft and low, and not clear. I asked her, "Please speak louder." Although she said "Yes," her voice was still not clear. She talked for only a few minutes during which time I had to listen to her very carefully and I was irritated and frustrated.

After she hung up I remembered that my left ear was recently getting hard of hearing. I unconsciously picked up the phone with my left hand when she called and put it to my left ear! It was my fault! From time to time I must be making faulty judgements like this. Despite my imperfection and many "one foot" faults I

make, I have been supported by so much kindness and good will in my everyday life.

Namo Amida Butsu, although we often recite, is a call of the Buddha-Truth. It is a compassionate calling to awaken us to the life of reflection and appreciation.

In Gassho,
Yasuo Izumi, Minister of BTSA

毎週日曜日十時半のお参りの前に、九時四十分から二十分ほどお経を頂くことにしました。その後、お参りが始まるまでの間、お経の話などをしております。お経にしる、高僧方のお書きになったものにしる、まず「いただく」という姿勢が大切と思われます。身体の頂上(いただき)は頭です。この頭をまず下げて聞くことが、「頂く」ということです。ふんぞり返っていては、み教えは心に届くことはありませんし、仏様の心を喜ぶことも出来なんでしょう。「頂く」というこの謙虚な姿勢が、宗教のはじめであり最終的な目標といえます。

宗教にもいろいろありますが、人間を拝ませるような宗教は、「にせもの」です。お釈迦様(釈尊)は、人間としてお生まれになりましたが、人間を超えた世界に生きられた方です。人間の不真実、不完全な姿に気づかれ、真実、完全なる世界に頭を下げられた方でありましょ。私たちが礼拝しております仏像は、そのような真実、完全なる世界に導こうとされているお姿です。仏様のやさしく、あたたかい心(大慈悲)が、自己中心で間違いだらけの「私」に、形となって、日夜働きかけ、目覚めさせていてくださるのです。身をととのえ(調身)、心をととのえ(調心)、いよいよ聴聞させていただきましょ。

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BTSA NOTES

A little over a year in our new building and the temple belongs to us! What good news Treasurer Robert Takaguchi delivered at the February monthly memorial service, telling us that the Alberta Treasury Branch loan BTSA borrowed to fund the difference between our combined assets and the \$4-million construction cost had been paid off.

A grateful thanks to all the generous donors from near and far who contributed so overwhelmingly to the building fund and to help us come this far. It is humbling to recognize that our work ahead remains challenging as we aspire to achieve our vision statement as “dedicated to being an open Jodo Shinshu Sangha organization that appreciates, promotes, preserves and practices the Buddha Dharma teaching.”

An occasion arose recently to put the teaching into practice, thanks to Matthew Liu, a fellow Buddhist, who requested BTSA co-sponsorship of a supper to help raise funds for the suffering people of Haiti which was struck by a massive earthquake in mid-January. Mr. Liu, a volunteer cook, was moved by the plight of the Haitians and offered to prepare a gourmet Chinese dinner at the New Dynasty Restaurant—another co-sponsor—to help provide for their relief. (Please see elsewhere in this Hikari for details). One of our board members who met to discuss this with the interested parties noted that this is the kind of project BTSA should support to help meet its goals.

Further to our vision, Rev. S. Makino’s astute observation during the dedication service in April 2009 comes to mind: *“A building can stand only as tall as its foundation allows. A temple can only grow as much as its members allow. A foundation is only as solid as the earth it sits on. A member is only as enriched as the Nembutsu path (s)he walks.”*

With our mortgage retired, the BTSA’s physical foundation is firmly in place. In the days to come, we hope we can solidify this foundation by encouraging former members to become active again and welcoming new members to join us “to gratefully promote and practice Buddha Dharma teaching through communication, community, tradition, education, and resource development.” **Members are reminded and encouraged to attend the annual general meeting on March 7, following the monthly memorial service, to suggest ways to further the realization of our mission.**

The Board at its Feb. 10 meeting formally ratified an earlier email decision to pay off the outstanding amount of the bank loan underwriting the cost of the temple. Since BTSA currently has \$102,000 in its capital account and \$112,000 in its operating account, a suggestion was made to have a sub-committee recommend to the next board meeting an investment strategy for funds that are not immediately needed.

Other items approved included:

- BTSA’s 2010 assessment for the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada be based on 243 members, the figure at Dec. 31, 2009;
- Adoption of a rental policy, available at the temple for perusal. The policy is one circulated, with minor amendments, earlier in preparation for a city hall-type meeting which had to be postponed;
- BTSA co-sponsorship of the Haiti relief project (mentioned above), subject to clarification from the Canada Revenue Agency;
- Acceptance of the Membership Committee recommendation that the 2010 membership be set at \$100 and be presented to the annual general meeting for adoption;
- Further, that a recommendation to create a student membership category be brought to the annual general meeting; and,
- The BTSA president and secretary be the BTSA representatives to the JSBTC AGM in Richmond, B.C. (Steveston Buddhist Temple) on April 24.

Re: building matters, an appropriate type of yellow tape with a gritty surface will be placed on outside steps for safety when the weather improves. Wesbridge Construction has been consulted to solve a drainage problem on the front sidewalk.

Akira Ichikawa

TOBAN UPDATE

Toban Rotation Schedule

March	Toban 4
April	Toban 1

Thanks to **Toban 3** for their work during the month of February and to Pat Sassa for overseeing the 49th day memorial service for Roy Eiji Takeda.

Jan Okamura and crew prepared a prime rib dinner for the Tonarigumi AGM, another successful fundraising event.

Chow Mein Supper planning is underway and tickets for the May 1 event have been distributed. Roland Ikuta and Mary Shigehiro will be apprentice coordinators along with Jan Okamura and Pat Sassa.

The Soup Kitchen coordinated by Toban 3 on March 22 has a full slate of volunteers. On April 7 it will be coordinated by Tobans 1 & 2. Contact Lilly Oishi or Judy Takaguchi to volunteer.

HAITI RELIEF Chinese Gourmet Fundraising Dinner

Prepared by Matthew Liu

Sunday, March 21, 2010

5:30 pm | New Dynasty Restaurant

The Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta (BTSA) will join with independent volunteer chef, Matthew Liu, and the New Dynasty Restaurant in support of a fundraising dinner for the benefit of the Haitian people. Matthew Liu will prepare a Chinese gourmet dinner and The New Dynasty Restaurant will support Matthew through the provision of kitchen use, food and dinner venue. The New Dynasty will also donate revenue received for the meal to the Haiti relief through BTSA. BTSA will administer the funds from the tickets sales to BTSA members. The cost is \$100 per ticket, of which \$25 is for the dinner and \$75 for donation. A tax-deductible receipt will be issued for \$75. BTSA will turn the proceeds over to a (Canada-based) Haiti relief organization.

This event will allow the BTSA to be actively involved in responding to the Haiti crisis. It will initiate a partnership with those who are of like mind in wishing to contribute. It will also give BTSA members another way to contribute individually to the people of Haiti. This is a compassionate volunteer response to the Haiti tragedy.

A maximum of 60 tickets will be available on a “first-come, first-served basis” at the BTSA annual general meeting on March 7. Because dinner tickets are limited, any BTSA member or friend may alternately donate to the Haiti crisis through the BTSA. All additional donations received by BTSA will be added to the funds raised from the dinner and all donors will receive a charitable tax receipt from the BTSA. It is possible that other Haiti relief events may be planned if there is sufficient interest.



On Feb. 18, 2010 Reverend Izumi spoke at the Bi-Annual Memorial Service, St. Michael's Health Center.
photo: Tak Tsujita

JSBTCWF update

- Donna Dubbelboer and Nancy Adachi will represent BTSA at the **JSBTC Women's Federation AGM**, April 24 and 25 in Steveston.

- **The 14th World Buddhist Women's Conference** is being held May 16 & 17, 2011 in Kyoto, Japan. A general count of how many people may be attending has been requested.

So far these are the people who have expressed interest: Flo Senda, Sumi and Jim Tsukishima, Yoko & Tak Tsujita, Katie Nakagawa, Reiko Takeyasu, Nancy & Roy Adachi, Kim Sudo, Tosh Ibuki, Donna & John Dubbelboer, Mayase Tanaka and Keiko Gordon.

If you would like to get information or are interested in attending, please contact Donna Dubbelboer. We welcome everyone and hope you can join us.

Building Fund Donations

February 2010

GOLD (correction)

Bob, Ritsuko & Sherry Masuda,

Memorial Donations

February 2010

Mitsuko Arizono
 Hideo & June Hinatsu
 Janet Hinatsu
 Marie Hirashima
 Robert Hironaka
 Sadae Kanegawa
 Takeshi & Sue Koyata
 Katoye Maruno
 Teiji Nakamura
 May Nishikawa
 Frank & Kimi Ohno
 Hideko Oishi
 Tak & Jan Okamura
 Kikue Osaka
 Yumiko Osaka
 Fumi Sugimoto
 Nobs & Kaz Sugimoto
 Tomiko Sugimoto
 Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
 Sam & Betty Taniguchi
 Masae Taniwa
 Joe & Jean Tatebe
 Sumie Tsukishima

Total - \$985.00

Shotsuki Hoyo

February 2010

Roy Asato
 April Fleury
 Yoshio Fujimoto
 Terry Hanna & Sylvia Oishi
 Shirley Higa
 Jim & Aya Hironaka
 Ayako Imahashi
 Duane & June Kenemy
 Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
 May Ohno
 Lilly Oishi
 Roy & Pat Sassa
 Nobby & Michiko Sudo
 Mas & Miyo Sunada
 Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
 Robert & Judy Takaguchi
 Morison Tanaka
 Toshiko Tanaka
 Clifford & Mary Thomas
 Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama

Total - \$820.00

2010 Buddhist Memorial Service

仏教徒の年忌法要

Year of Death (死亡年)

2009 First annual memorial 1 year from death
2008 3rd 2 full years from death
2004 7th 6 full years from death
1998 13th 12 full years from death
1994 17th 16 full years from death
1986 25th 24 full years from death
1978 33rd 32 full years from death
1961 50th 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) 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.



BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

PLEDGE FORM

I wish to support the BTSA Building Fund

Official tax receipts can be issued by the BTSA for any charitable donations. Anyone wishing to donate to the building fund can make a one time donation or pledge their donation over the next 3-5 years. The donor levels are as follows:

DIAMOND	\$25,000 or greater	GOLD	\$5,000 to \$9,999
EMERALD	\$17,500 to \$24,999	SILVER	\$2,500 to \$4,999
PLATINUM	\$10,000 to \$17,499	BRONZE	\$1,000 to \$2,499

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____

Province/State _____ Postal/Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION _____

I wish for my pledge to remain confidential

Monthly Instalments of \$ _____ for _____ years

Yearly instalments of \$ _____ for _____ years

One-time Donation of \$ _____

Notation (eg. *In memory of*) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta
c/o Robert Takaguchi, Treasurer
Box 1249 • Raymond, AB T0K 2S0



THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA
children & youth dharma classes

Many thanks go to Pat Sassa and Yoko Tsujita who came to visit the Dharma classroom and present about the importance of handwashing.

The class put their lesson to practice in preparation for making a post-service snack. This has become a regular activity for the kids on the last Sunday of each month.



PROGRAMS open to the community

Gentle Yoga for Seniors with Val Kunimoto runs through March 9. The spring session runs April 13 - May 18. Registration is full.

Cooking Club

Saturdays in March, 9 - 1 pm. Registration is full.

Naikan: An Approach to Self-Reflection

Saturdays, March 6 - April 24 for eight sessions 1:30 - 3:30 pm. Registration is open.

Contact: lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com or 403.327.1668

REGULAR EVENTS

***Study/Discussion Group**

Sundays right after the morning chanting (Shoshinge). The purpose of meeting is to deepen our understanding and appreciation of Buddha's teachings, study the Dharma and facilitate discussion. Please contact Renae Barlow (renaeb@telus.net) or Rev. Izumi

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Thursdays 7 - 9 pm

Please contact Katie Nakagawa

403. 327.4296 or katienak@shaw.ca

Tonarigumi

Tuesdays 12 - 3 pm

Taiko Class

Tuesdays 7 - 8:30 pm

Please contact David Tanaka

403.330.1548 or david@eyesquared.com

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club

Wednesdays 1:30 - 4 pm

All interested are welcome to join or just listen and enjoy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Onenju (Ojuzu) For Sale

New Onenju from Japan are available. (\$15 for male onenju. \$18 and \$20 for female onenju)

Flowers are delivered to those in hospital.

Please contact Kay Tsukishima, 403.327.9786 or Kaz Takaguchi, 403.328.3190 if you are aware of a BTSA member who has been hospitalized for a week or more.

The Temple Library in the Board Room awaits

organization, but members are welcome to check out any titles they wish. A recent addition is "Now Is The Moment", a softcover book, donated by its author, Robert Hironaka.

March & April 2010 Schedule

三月と四月(2010年)の予定表

Chanting (Shoshinge) starts at 9:40am (Study/Discussion group will be held following Regular Chanting). Everyone welcome!

Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service 祥月法要 Please bring Homyo (Buddhist Name) of your loved one. 法名をご持参ください。

***Infant Presentation Ceremony** (初参り) before the Hanamatsuri service. If you or your friends have infant(s) please join us.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MARCH			Gentle Yoga 12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Leth Karaoke Club	7pm SAB Choir		9am Cooking Club 1:30pm Naikan
		1	2	3	4	5	6
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Monthly Memorial Service AGM after service	8	Gentle Yoga (last class) 12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Leth Karaoke Club	7pm SAB Choir		9am Cooking Club 1:30pm Naikan
	7		9	10	11	12	13
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service		12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Leth Karaoke Club	7pm SAB Choir		9am Cooking Club 1:30pm Naikan
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
9:40am Chanting 10:30am Spring Equinox-Ohigan Serv. Toban Leader Meeting Haiti Fundraiser		12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Leth Karaoke Club	7pm SAB Choir		9am Cooking Club 1:30pm Naikan	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
9:40am Chanting 10:30am Eshin-ni and kakushin-ni Service		12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Leth Karaoke Club				
28	29	30	31				

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
APRIL					7pm SAB Choir		1:30pm Naikan
					1	2	3
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Monthly Memorial Service		12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Leth Karaoke Club	7pm SAB Choir		1:30pm Naikan
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	*2pm Hanamatsuri Buddha's Birthday はなまつり。花祭り		Gentle Yoga (first class) 12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Leth Karaoke Club	7pm SAB Choir		1:30pm Naikan
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service		Gentle Yoga 12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Leth Karaoke Club	7pm SAB Choir		1:30pm Naikan	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service		Gentle Yoga 12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Leth Karaoke Club	7pm SAB Choir		JSBTC & JSBTCWF AGM in Steveston	
25	26	27	28	29	30		