



March 2013

Family Life



On this earth there are presently about 7 billion human beings and countless animals, fish, birds and insects. We are all connected to one another. We are members of one big family. We are members of a global family.

Shinran Shonin (1173-1263) said: "All beings, without exception, have been fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, in the timeless process of birth-and-death." These words are true beyond time and place. But sadly, our minds do not operate in concert with these words. Shinran Shonin, we believe, truly realized that we are all connected and joined together like a spider's web. From our eyes, his life was the one of selflessness, no self-attachment. Yet, he berated himself as a selfish being in the light of Amida's boundless compassion.

Some people say that Sakyamuni (Gautama) who became a Buddha was not a family man, that he did not think of his family. According to the

legend, he abandoned his family, his wife Yashodhara and a newborn baby, Rahura, at the age of 29 years to seek enlightenment, to seek what is true and real. So, they think that the Buddha did not think of his family and was indifferent to family life. However, we must first understand that in India in Sakyamni's time, it was customary to leave the family to seek the Truth of life once an heir was born. Of course, I believe that it was a difficult and serious decision for him to part, even temporarily, from his loving family. He was a human. Secondly, we must understand that he left his family because he was concerned about a family at large, a global family. His thoughts were for the happiness of all sentient beings in suffering and delusion. Actually, he did not abandon his family permanently because after his enlightenment, he returned to his family to lead his wife, his son, his father, his cousins to the realm of true awakening of life, truth of life, the law of interdependence and interconnectedness. He withdrew from the world but returned to the world to share what he had discovered. He cared not only for his family but for all sentient beings. In this sense, he was beyond human, beyond egocentricity.

What made Sakyamuni a Buddha was great compassion, unconditional and limitless compassion. Great compassion is the foundation and essence of all Buddhas. Shinran Shonin (1173-1263) who found great compassion in his life joyfully expressed:

Watching over the followers of the Truth in the worlds of the ten quarters, as numerous as dust-particles, Buddha embraces them and does not forsake; hence the Buddha is called 'Amida'.

The essence of all Buddhas is nothing but boundless compassion (Amida) which emerges from wisdom of oneness by which we are liberated from the realm of delusion.

Namo Amida Butsu
Yasuo Izumi, Minister
Buddhist Temple of Southern
Alberta

願いの力

長く、厳しい冬が終わろうとしていまず。摂氏で零下15度、20度の寒さが続く、などということは、日本ではまづないでしょう。そのような寒さが、この冬も何日もありました。土が30センチ以上の深さまで凍る寒さです。その土から、また花の芽が出てくるのです。曇鸞大師が「魚母のたとえ」を言っておられます。長い冬の後、死んだと思われていた小魚が、春の光の中に泳ぎだすといわれるのです。それは、「魚の母」の願いが通じたからだ。。。花の芽も暖かい日差しを受けて出てくるのです。それは、暖かい日差しの願いでしょうか。人間も、我利、我欲の世界にありながら、真実世界に生まれよと、願いがかけられているのです。仏様の願いです。知恵と慈悲から生まれ出る願いです。広く、明るく、大きな世界へ生まれよと働き続ける、仏様の願いです。さあ、また元気に、力強く、安心して生かしていただきましょう。

合掌 泉

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403.327.1260 • www.theBTSA.com

BTSA NOTES

BTSA began March with its annual general meeting following the monthly memorial service. Six new board members were to be elected to fill the terms of those whose two-year stints were ending, in accordance with the by-law on temple governance. Reports of the meeting will appear in the next Hikari.

Allow me this opportunity to thank all the members who gave so generously of their time and donations throughout 2012 to make the operation of the otera so smooth and efficient. I'm reminded of the story of ducks that glide ever so gracefully atop the surface of a lake without betraying the furious hidden work their webbed feet are constantly doing to give the appearance of effortlessness. Thanks to sensei and all the board directors, members and tobans for their continuing work and unstinting support given so graciously and doing the demanding behind-the-scene tasks.

A mein-making session is set for March 9 preparatory to the annual spring chow mein supper on May 4. Tickets for the supper will be distributed at the session. The supper is a major fund-raiser for the temple to help carry out its programs throughout the year and we look forward to great turnouts for both events.

Other activities during March include the continuation of the second Mindful Meditation program scheduled through April 4; a movie night during the morning of Mar. 23 at the Movie Mill (please see related article); and the Eshinni-Kakushinni Memorial with the regular Sunday service on Mar. 24.

For a recap of events in February, please find elsewhere in this Hikari a photo of our continuing assistance to the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen, with Toban 3; and photo/articles of BTSA's contribution to the Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge and BTSA's first Pet Memorial Service on Feb. 10.

Looking ahead, BTSA has confirmed Dr. Anthony W. Barber, coordinator of the Asian Studies Program at the University of Calgary, as the guest speaker for Hanamatsuri on Apr. 7. Please keep in mind that this major service begins at 2 p.m.

Near the end of April, BTSA will be the host temple for the annual general meeting of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada. We'd like to make the occasion a gala welcome to our guests from across Canada. To do this, we'd like to see as many of our members to join by signing up for the banquet on Apr. 27 and a bento lunch the following day. Please see the invitation and sign-up article elsewhere in this Hikari which also describes the costs.

In accordance with BTSA by-laws, new executive members of the board will be selected at the March board meeting.

Akira Ichikawa

BUDDHIST Q & A

I know there are two streams in Buddhism; Hinayana and Mahayana. Do we not use "Hinayana" Buddhism anymore?

No we do not. "Hinayana" means a "smaller vehicle" vs Mahayana Buddhism. The term "Hinayana" was apparently used by the followers of "Mahayana" which means a "larger" vehicle to deliver as many all beings as possible to the realm of enlightenment. The Buddhists, these days, usually prefer the term "Theravada" instead of "Hinayana." "Theravada" means "Elder." "Elder" is not determined by age but by the time of duration since one's ordination. (Y.I.)

CHAIR SCHEDULE March & April 2013

Mar 03 SHOTSUKI

Chair: Florence Senda
Audio: John Dubbelboer

Mar 10

Chair: Katie Nakagawa
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Mar 17 OHIGAN

Chair: Deanna Jones
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

**Mar 24 ESHINNI/KAKUSHINNI
MEMORIAL**

Chair: Joyce Shigehiro
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Mar 31

Chair: David Major
Audio: Tak Okamura

**Apr 07 HANAMATSURI/
SHOTSUKI**

Chair: Robert Takaguchi
Audio: John Dubbelboer

Apr 14

Chair: Roland Ikuta
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Apr 21

Chair: Katie Ainscough
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Apr 28 JSBTC TSUITO HOYO

Chair: Sheila Oishi
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

MC designates: if you are unable to chair on your assigned date or have made other arrangements on your own, please inform Sway Nishimura. Thank you.

NIRVANA DAY pet memorial service



The BTSA held its first pet memorial service at the Feb. 10 Sunday service which also commemorated Nirvana Day. Izumi sensei wove the two ideas into his dharma talk. It's hoped that this will become an annual event and future commemorations will fill the display stand with pictures of numerous pets who have been great companions in our lives.



An estimated \$260 in donations to the BTSA collection for the Interfaith Food Bank and a cash donation of \$40 totaled \$300. BTSA agreed to match the amount, making the final amount \$600. Donna and John Dubbelboer and Heidi Oishi displayed some of the parcels that members gave over a three-month period. Thanks to Jan and Tak Okamura for estimating the donated goods. The goods and monetary donations were turned over to the Food Bank on Feb. 19.

Mein-making will be held March 9 starting at 8am with Mary Shigehiro coordinating this session.

Chow Mein Supper is scheduled for May 4 with Judy Takaguchi as committee chair.

TOBAN UPDATE

Contact lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com or 403.327.1668

Toban Schedule

March	Toban 3
April	Toban 4
May	Toban 1

Thanks to **Toban 2** for tea and refreshments each week and the delicious lunch at the end of the month

Soup Kitchen

Led by Pat Sassa, Toban 3 provided lunch at the Soup Kitchen in February. From left, Sumi Tomiyama, Roy Sassa, Marion Tomiyama, Emily Stitt, Shirley Higa, Pat Sassa, Katie Nakagawa, Joe Tomiyama and Fudge Takeda.



Upcoming dates:

Wed, Feb 6	Toban 3
Mon, Apr 22	Toban 2
Wed, May 15	Toban 1



February Shotsuki Memorial service

2013 Membership Form

- Full Membership (\$100 for each member)
 Student Membership*

Last Name: _____ First Names(s): _____

Last Name: _____ First Names(s): _____

Home Address: _____

City, Province, Postal Code: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Cellphone No.: _____

Email: _____

- Check to receive The Hikari newsletter by Email only.

Please send this form and your remittance to:
 Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta
 Treasurer
 470 40th Street South
 Lethbridge, AB, T1J 3Z5

Notes

*Student membership is limited to persons 18 years or older who are currently registered in a recognized educational institution. It is free of charge with a valid student ID card. Student Members are not entitled to vote at general meetings or to hold office in the BTSA and this category of membership does not include membership in the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada.

LET'S EXPAND THE CIRCLE OF THE DHARMA!

Treasurer's Note: The 2012 Income Tax Receipts have been sent out. Please let the treasurer know if there are any problems or questions. Also note: any donations received at the temple after December 31, 2012 will be on the 2013 receipts, even if the check was dated in 2012.

Thank you,
 John Dubbelboer 403-381-7643

Membership to Feb. 23, 2013 - 84

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

February 2013

Ken & April Fleury	Lilly Oishi
Yoshio Fujimoto	John & Cheryl Penrice
Terry Hanna & Sylvia Oishi	Irene & Asaye Sakamoto
Gary Higa	Roy & Pat Sassa
Randy Higa	Joe & Mary Shigehiro
Shinako (Sheila) Higa	Nori Sugimoto
Shirley Higa	Jim Sunada
Rumiko Ibuki	Marc & Beth Sunada
Susumu & Teruko Ikuta	Miyo Sunada
Ayako Imahashi	Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
Ray & Donna Journoud	Tom & Tsuyako Tajiri
Sadae Kanegawa	Robert & Judy Takaguchi
Eileen Kunimoto	Brenda & Lester Tanner
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura	George Tokuda
Yoko Nishimura	Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Mac & Reyko Nishiyama	
May Ohno	
Heidi Oishi	

Total - \$1,695

Other Donations

February 2013

Kiyomi Asada
 Sunao & Kaye Ayukawa
 Shinako (Sheila) Higa
 Shirley Higa
 Karen Hargrave
 Tomoe Hironaka
 Tomi Hisaoka
 Mak Ikuta
 Koji & Sumiye Itaya
 Tom & Lily Kaga
 Etsuko Karaki
 Kristie Masuda
 William T & Setsuko Nagai
 Ken & Vickie Nakagama
 Nikkei Cultural Society of Lethbridge & Area
 Mitsuko Oga
 Noriko Oga
 May Ohno
 Arlene Oishi & Jeff Coffman
 Heidi Oishi
 Lilly Oishi
 George & Grace Oshiro
 Tadanori & Chieko Sakaguchi
 Irene & Asaye Sakamoto
 Tosh & Joyce Saruwatari
 Roy & Pat Sassa
 Florence Senda
 Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
 Nobuko & Mary Shono
 Tomiko Shono
 Noris & Sachiko Taguchi

Fugi Takeda
 Toshiko Takeda
 Glen & Pamela Tanaka
 Masaye Tanaka
 Sam & Betty Taniguchi
 Akira Terashima
 Bill Teshima
 George Tokuda
 Kimiye Tsuji
 Tak & Yoko Tsujita
 Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima
 Aiko Yoshihara

Total - \$5,625

We try to be as thorough as possible but occasionally make errors. Please inform us if your name has been omitted from or misspelled in the donation lists. Anyone wishing his/her name not be acknowledged in print, please let us know so it won't be published. Thank you.

Movie Night in March

THE LITTLE BUDDHA

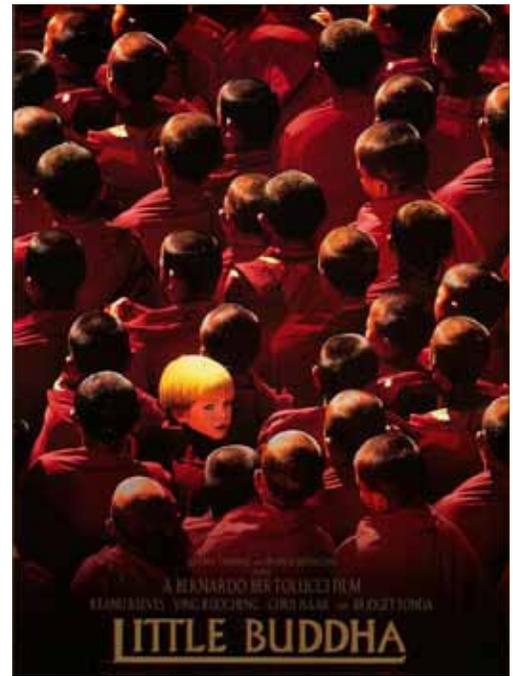
The BTSA's next movie night is going to be held in the morning! "The Little Buddha" (1993, G rating) will be shown at the Movie Mill on March 23 (Saturday) at 10 a.m., with doors opening at 9:30. There is no charge for admission, so invite your relatives and friends.

The story follows Tibetan monks who seek the reincarnation of their dead teacher. They're led to Seattle and a young American boy whose parents are convinced to allow him to return to Bhutan to undergo a test to determine whether he is the true reincarnation. The subtext of the test includes the story of Siddhartha and his spiritual awakening and enlightenment.

The film stars Keanu Reeves, Bridget Fonda and Chris Isaak.

The BTSA will provide a junior snack combo free of charge to children under 18 years and students. We ask that if you are planning to bring children or are a student, please RSVP Sylvia Oishi at (403) 328-5849 before Mar. 23 so the snack combos can be prepared in advance.

Concession will be open for all others.



REGULAR EVENTS

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir will meet Sundays March 10 and 17 and April 7 at 12 noon in the Hondo in preparation for Hanamatsuri. We welcome new members who enjoy singing the dharma! Please contact: Katie Nakagawa 403. 327.4296 or katiinak@shaw.ca

Tonari Gumi

Tuesdays 12 - 3 pm

Taiko Class

Tuesdays 6:30 youth, 7 - 8:30 pm adults

Contact: David Tanaka at 403.330.1548 or david@eyesquared.com

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club

Wednesdays 1:30 - 4 pm

PROGRAMS

Contact: Lorita Ichikawa 403.327.1668 or lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

Gentle Yoga for Seniors 7 sessions will run Thursdays from 10 to 11am, April 11 through May 30. There will be no session on April 25.

"Breathing, Stretching, Moving" (Aiki Breathing Class)

7 sessions will run Mondays from 11am to 12 noon, April 8 through May 27. There will be no session on May 20.

Women's Federation World Convention Craft Group will meet the 3rd Sunday of each month following service and tea.

Please contact: Totsy Nishimura 403.752.3435 or swayn@telusplanet.net

Junior Minyo Dancers meets Sunday March 3 at 3 p.m. and March 10 and 17 at 1:30 p.m. Pat is requesting a loan of Junior kimonos (6-8) for a performance in June. Please contact her @ 403.329.3105 for details.

Mindful Meditation Session 2 runs February 28 through April 4 at 5:30 to 6:30 pm. under the guidance of Dr. Rachael Crowder. Contact Sylvia Oishi at sylvia.oishi@albertacourts.ca or 403.328.5849.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences

The Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta expresses heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost loved ones.

Mrs. Yeiko Higa (90) Jan. 31, 2013

Reminder: Please drop off used stamps in the stamp jar at the Temple for the JSBTC WF before April 15th.

Please schedule all activities, including Toban meetings, events and food preparation with Fudge Takeda at 403-394-9789.

A sample of a portable shrine (o-but Sudan) has arrived from Buddhist store in Japan. Those who are interested, please come to take a look at minister's office or call (403)-382-7024.

We wish to inform you that Sway and Totsy Nishimura (752.3435) have graciously accepted the position to send **flowers, fruit or restaurant gift cards to those who have been hospitalized for a week or more.** They will be assisted by Bill & June Terakita (327.0103) and Marg Tomomitsu. Please contact them if you know of someone in the hospital for over a week. Thank you to Joe and Sumi Tomiyama for their years of representing the Temple to those who were ill.

Do you have any flower vases that you do not want? We are still collecting them to re-cycle them to the florists. They will purchase them and we give the funds to the Dharma Class. So far we have collected \$292.75. Bring them to Temple and put them in the closet near the kitchen. Thanks to all those who have already donated their vases.

Lost and Found items have accumulated at the temple, among them outerwear both casual and dressy. Please check in the front cloakroom off the lobby if you've missed items of clothing for some time and think they may have been left at the temple.

INVITE TO MEMBERS JSBTC Banquet

The BTSA is hosting the annual general meeting of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada from Apr. 25 through Apr. 28. Included are a banquet on Apr. 27 at the temple from 6 p.m. and a bento lunch on Apr. 28 following the Sunday Tsuito Hoyo (service). The board would like BTSA members to join the visiting delegates from throughout Canada for both the Saturday meal and the Sunday lunch. The banquet will be catered by LA Chefs; the bento will be prepared by the Lighthouse Restaurant. The delegates will be guests of the BTSA.

We ask our members to remit \$35 for the banquet and \$20 for bento separately or \$50 for both, and to sign up so we can get an accurate headcount for our caterers. For the banquet, children under 3 are free, and those between the ages of 3 and 10 will be \$15. For the Sunday bento, children will be charged \$10. We ask for your commitment and remittance by Apr. 12 to allow sufficient time to inform the caterers the numbers attending.

Please register by filling out the form below, indicating the number of persons planning to attend, and drop it off at the temple or email. Emails may be sent to: ichikawa@uleth.ca



JSBTC AGM Banquet/Lunch Registration (Please Print)

Please check one:

Banquet Only (Apr. 27) @ \$35: _____

Lunch Only (Apr. 28) @ \$20: _____

Both @ \$50: _____

Total attending: _____

Please check the number of Children attending:

Banquet for Children to Age 3 (Apr. 27) no charge: _____

Banquet for Children 3 to 10 (Apr. 27) @\$15: _____

Lunch for Children (Apr. 28) @\$10: _____

Name: _____

Email _____

Phone: _____



THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

children & youth dharma classes



Pennies for Charity

Thank you to members for participating in the "We Create Change" fundraiser through RBC and Free the Children. The Dharma class was able to collect \$50 worth of pennies which means providing water for two people for life.

For the month of March the Dharma class will focus on the theme of the Golden Chain in hopes to create a presentation for the Hanamatsuri service in April.



Junior Minyo Dancing and Taiko are two of the activities that the temple hosts.

Schedule 光 March & April 2013

Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service 祥月法要 (service in English)

Please bring Homyo (Buddhist Name) of your loved one. 法名をご持参ください。

MARCH: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
10:30am Shotsuki Service/ AGM 3pm Junior Minyo Dancers 3	4	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 5	1:30pm Karaoke 6	5:30pm Meditation 7	7pm Dharma Study (Two Paths) 8	8am Mein-making 9
10:30am Regular Service 12noonChoir 1:30pm Junior Minyo Dancers 10	11	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 12	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSa Board Meeting 13	5:30pm Meditation 7pm Memorial service at St. Michael's 14	15	16
10:30am Spring O-Higan Service 12noon Choir 1:30pm Junior Minyo Dancers 17	18	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 19	11:30am Dharma study for college students 1:30pm Karaoke 20	5:30pm Meditation 21	7pm Dharma Study (True and Temporary) 22	10am Little Buddha at the Movie Mill 23
24 10:30am Eshin-ni and Kakushin-ni Service 10:30am Regular Service 31	25	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 26	1:30pm Karaoke 27	5:30pm Meditation 28	29	30

APRIL: TOBAN 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	5:30pm Meditation 4	7pm Dharma Study 5	6
12noon Choir 2pm Hanamatsuri/ Shotsuki Service 7	8	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 9	1:30pm Karaoke 10	11	12	13
10:30am Regular Service 14	15	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 16	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSa Board Meeting 17	18	7pm Dharma Study 19	20
10:30am Regular Service 21	22	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 23	1:30pm Karaoke 24	JSBTC Ministers' Meeting 25	Various JSBTC Meetings 26	JSBTC AGM 27
10:30am JSBTC Memorial Service 28	29	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 30	1:30pm Karaoke			