

Hikari the Light



October 2012

**When we say Namō Amida Butsu,
Which surpasses all virtues,
Our heavy obstructions of blind passion – past, present and future-
Are all unfailingly transformed, becoming light and slight. – Shinran Shonin (1173-1263)**

One afternoon I decided to walk instead of driving to visit one of our members. It was a very warm day. I knew it would be well over 30 minutes to walk to get there. Though it was an extremely warm day, I enjoyed walking.

On the way back to the temple, another member happened to drive by. He saw me, stopped and called on me: “Reverend, you are walking on such warm day?! I can take you back to the temple.” I said “Oh, no thanks. I need some exercise,” and continued walking. Then he pulled over his truck and said, “I just have dug potatoes out from my farm. They are very fresh. Please take them.” He took a shopping bag full of potatoes out of his truck and gave it to me.

I saw red-colored potatoes still covered with dried mud. After I thanked him for his kindness and was about to leave, he again said “Since it is a very warm day I should deliver it to you later. You’d better not carry them. I will wash them and deliver them.” I said “Oh, it’s not necessary to clean them. It is okay. I can carry them. They aren’t that heavy. I only have 15 minutes or so to go.” “Well, it is up to you but... Are you really okay?” he asked. “Oh yes, no problem. Thank you anyway.”

Then off I walked. Sure enough, the bag was getting heavier. It seemed the temperature was even going up. The sweat was coming out of my forehead and soon covered my eyes. The potatoes became an obstacle to walking. Did I really need potatoes? I started to regret what I said a few minutes ago. Why didn’t I accept

his offer? He said he could deliver the potatoes later. Why did I so stubbornly refused his kindness.” I complained to myself.

I regretfully looked at the potato bag. I saw mud-covered red-colored potatoes. Suddenly, I thought: “It is certainly a very warm day and I am hardly able to bear the heat and the weight of the bag. But look. These potatoes which were dug out not so long ago are inside the bag. It must be very hot inside the bag! Oh, sorry! I should walk quickly!”

When I thought this way, I stopped complaining. Not only that, the bag I was carrying seemed to be lighter. The potatoes actually did not really make me feel that my situation was miserable but my selfish mind made the potatoes appear to be obstructions and make my situation miserable.

When I shared my experience with my wife that evening, she said “I had a similar experience when I was in labour with our first child. It was so painful but then I thought that the baby inside must also be working just as hard to come out. The moment I thought this, the pain became much lighter.” Well, I never had such experience but I was able to sympathize with what she said.

As I quoted a poem written by Shinran Shonin in the beginning, Namō Amida Butsu has power to transform our blind passion.

Nembutsu, Namō Amida Butsu, is, of course, not a spell or magical formula. It is Amida Buddha’s call coming out of the realm of non-ego, the Land of Purity. It is beyond our thoughts and words. Because Buddha’s working is full of pure and unconditional compassion it is able to transform our selfish perspective into a life based on Buddha’s heart, the heart of oneness.

Encountering the Nembutsu, the working of Buddha’s boundless compassion, Namō Amida Butsu bubbles out of our lips with deep gratitude and joy.

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

魅力あるお寺

私達のお寺には、メンバーシップ委員会があります。小人数の委員会ではありますが、参詣される人達のため、「魅力あるお寺を」と考えています。先日の集まりでは、仏教用語が書かれたTシャツを配布するアイデアが出ました。たとえば、餓鬼 (hungry ghosts) と後ろ側に書いて、文句 (complaints) と前の方に書くのはどうだろうか。。。などと笑いながらの話し合いになりました。しかし考えてみると、「餓(う)えた鬼」はオトギ話に出てくる鬼のことではありません。“欲しい欲しい”の心は、人間の歴史が始まって以来、ずーっと続いている私たちの姿ではないでしょうか。そして、その心が満足しないと“文句、文句”の連続です。これもまた人間の姿にちがいはありません。人間の欲や不満(文句)は、まことに限りなく、それは真実が見えないところから起こります。真実とは、人は、例外なく「お蔭様の中で、生かされている」という事実です。一輪の美しい花を見ても、見えない根が支えているのです。この事実を目覚めることは、難中の難です。私たちの自己中心性の闇が破られなければなりません。お浄土とは、この闇が破られた世界、智慧の光が満ちている広く、明るい世界を言うのでしょうか。お浄土の光を身体いっぱいを受けて、日々、力強く、誠実に生活させていただきましよう。 合掌 泉

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BTSA NOTES

The numerous scheduled events for October and the remaining months of the year show that the cooling autumn has little effect on up-tempo BTSA activities. Besides the fall chow mein supper on Oct. 13, other events starting up during the month are adult dharma classes and the dharma exchange, both described in articles elsewhere in this Hikari. Dates also are listed.

Add to these, on-going gatherings like the gentle yoga and aiki breathing classes, taiko practices, weekly Tonarigumi, karaoke club, and temple choir get-togethers, and we see a busy and thriving centre. It's wonderful to see the facility used regularly and so often, a magnet for spiritual, cultural and community involvement as was anticipated in the original plans. It's heartening, too, that so many people are getting acquainted with the facilities and enjoying them.

October also commemorates the beginning of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in Canada, with the second Sunday (Oct. 14) set aside as JSBTC Day. This service is a yearly recognition of the founding of the Jodo Shinshu movement in Canada in 1905 when the first minister arrived in Vancouver on Oct. 12. A related article solicits donations for Buddhist propagation in Canada.

The active pace continues into November with plans for a mindfulness meditation program and a movie night. Again, see details in other Hikari items. Other upcoming events include the Alberta Buddhist Conference in Calgary and the annual Dharma bake and craft sales.

Mein noodle-making was the major activity in September as the crew showing up on Sept. 22, produced the much-in-demand noodles for the fall chow mein supper. Thanks to co-chairs Pat Sassa and Keiko Tsukishima for overseeing the session; and thanks to all who turned out and worked so tirelessly throughout the day. Please check out the photos taken at the time.

Two thousand tickets for the supper were distributed at the mein-making session, and all tobans should now have their allotments. We ask that any unsold tickets be made available to other as soon as possible to insure we're able to meet last-minute demand. We've successfully sold out all our previous suppers and look forward to a repeat this time for this major fund-raiser.

Akira Ichikawa

TOBAN UPDATE

Toban Schedule

The Toban system consists of four working groups that keep the temple running smoothly. Tasks include day to day maintenance and set up, cleaning, preparation of the najjin for services, refreshments and meals for meetings, services and special events. We can always use help, whether you're on a Toban list or not. If you would like to be on the list for calls, contact a Toban leader or Lorita.

October	Toban 1
November	Toban 2
December	Toban 3

Thanks to **Toban 4** for overseeing a busy month of September. Special appreciation goes to Keiko Tsukishima for her leadership of Toban activities in the absence of Jan Okamura – great to have you back, Jan!

Mein-making –Thanks to Pat Sassa and Keiko Tsukishima for coordinating and to all who came out to help. A delicious lunch was prepared with leftovers enough to provide a nice luncheon after the Ohigon Autumn Equinox Service the following Sunday.

Fall Chow Mein Supper - October 13

Tickets have been distributed and preparations are complete and we're looking forward to another successful event led by Judy Takaguchi with everyone's support.

CHAIR SCHEDULE

October & November 2012

Oct 07 SHOTSUKI
Chair: John Dubbelboer
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Oct 14
Chair: Joyce Shigehiro
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Oct 21
Chair: Roland Ikuta/Kids
Audio: John Dubbelboer

Oct 28
Chair: Katie Nakagawa
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Nov 04 SHOTSUKI
Chair: Sylvia Oishi
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Nov 11
TBA

Nov 18
Chair: Roland Ikuta/Kids
Audio: Tak Okamura

Nov 25
Chair: Deanna Jones
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.

ALBERTA BUDDHIST CONFERENCE Attendance

A sign-up sheet is available at the temple for those interested in attending the Alberta Buddhist Conference in Calgary on Nov. 10 (Saturday). Please sign up as soon as possible to facilitate planning for the trip.



This year's format, with guest speaker Christina Yanko-Ringle, is designed for a single day. Ms Yanko-Ringle, who received her master's degree from the Institute of Buddhist Studies, Berkeley, CA, in May, is a ministerial candidate.

More information about the program will be available soon, but we've been told that the activities will begin Saturday forenoon to allow travel from Lethbridge in the morning.

If sufficient interest is shown to stay over the following Sunday to attend the temple service, BTSA will try to plan a second vehicle to accommodate those wishing to stay. Please indicate on the sign-up sheet whether you're interested in a one- or two-day trip.

James Martin Sensei has informed us that the theme is *The 'I' in Amida*, based upon Amida Buddha's primal vow to withhold Buddhahood until "I" have been liberated from suffering.

In question form, Martin sensei asks: "How is this so? How do compassion and wisdom come to fruition in this world without 'I' being involved in the process?"

Mein making

Photos by John Dubbelboer and Akira Ichikawa



BUDDHIST Q & A

Is there such place called the Pure Land?

お浄土ってあるのですか？

The Pure Land does not exist as a physical and geographical place such as Japan and Canada. It is a symbolic expression about the realm of true awakening of life. It is filled with the light of true wisdom of oneness. Unlike Hell which is created by our blind passion of greed, anger and foolishness, the Pure Land is sustained by the pure, boundless and unconditional compassion for us who are creating Hellish world in our everyday lives. Our pious Jodo Shinshu followers say: "Our blind passions obstruct our eyes and cannot see the Pure Land, great compassion is untiring and illuminates us always." (Y.I.)



2012 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!

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

September 2012

Judy Fukushima
Shinako (Sheila) Higa
Shirley N Higa
Akira & Lorita D Ichikawa
Hiroshi Kitagawa
Ted & Sue Koyata
Eileen Kunimoto
Frank & Kimiko Ohno
May Ohno
Heidi Oishi
Sut & Neva Oishi
Hajime Harry Sugimoto
Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
Tomiko Sugimoto
Toshiko Tanaka
Bob & Shirley Taniguchi
Jean H. Tatebe

Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Tak & Yoko Tsujita
Jim Tsukishima

Total - \$830

Other Donations

September 2012

Grier & Corinne Brown
Keiko Gomyo
Neil Hisaoka
Brian Jackson
William & Setsuko Kikuchi
Janice Koga & Andrew Kunz
Lauren Kurio
Ken & Amy Kurio
Yoshiko Miller
Jim & Violet Morris
Marge Nagata
Nikkei Cultural Society of Lethbridge & Area

Mitsuko Nishi
Earl & Sekiko Odagaki
Yoshimi Odagaki
Heidi Oishi
Jack Panesar
S. A. New Japanese Immigrant Association
Florence Senda
Bob & Eiko Shigeihiro
Terry Sonoda
Elizabeth Naomi Terakita
Terakita Family

Total - \$2,850

Obon Donations*

July, 2012

John & Alice Kanashiro
Sadae Kanegawa
Stanley & Audrey Kanegawa
Irene Karia
Eleanor Katakami
Michie Kawasaki
Akiko Kimoto
Chizuko Kimura
Toshiko Kinoshita
Hiroshi Kitagawa
Jane Koyata
Takeshi & Sue Koyata
Dave Kunimoto
Eileen Kunimoto
Katoye Maruno
Toru Maruno
Yas Maruyama
Mineo Masuda
Kay K. Matsuda
May S. Matsumiya
Kinuko Matsuno
Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
Bob Mikado
Robert & Toshi Miyanaga
Judy S. Miyauchi

*Our apologies to those above whose names were erroneously omitted from the Obon Donation list in the September, 2012, issue of the Hikari.

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.

REGULAR EVENTS

Dharma sessions in Japanese will be held the first Sunday of the month at 2 pm led by Rev. Izumi.

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Resumes October 11

Thursdays 7 to 8:30 pm

Contact: Katie Nakagawa 403. 327.4296 or katiinak@shaw.ca

Tonari Gumi

Tuesdays 12 - 3 pm

Membership open to all over age 55.

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

Resumes October 10

Wednesdays 1:30 - 4 pm

PROGRAMS

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

Gentle Yoga for Seniors with Val Kunimoto

Thursdays Sept. 20 10:30-11:30|8 sessions

"Breathing, Stretching, Moving" (Aiki Breathing Class) with Lincoln Chew

Mondays September 24 10:45-12|8 sessions

Flowers, fruit basket or a restaurant certificate will be delivered to those in hospital. If you know of someone who is in hospital for at least one week please contact Sumi & Joe Tomiyama.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences

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

Momotaro Ichino (99) September 3, 2012

Women's Federation World Convention Craft Group will meet in the Board Room every Sunday after tea through the end of the year. Everyone welcome. Some of the projects can be done at home, so drop in and see what's doin'.

Contact: Totsy Nishimura 403.752.3435 or swayn@telusplanet.net

Shop and Support Update

Thanks to everyone who helped support this fund raising program for the JSBTCWF. This program has been a success as we have raised \$13,200 nationally and over \$4,000 at the BTSA. These funds will support the Worlds Women's Convention in 2015.

Due to accounting concerns at the JSBTC level, this program will be discontinued December 31, 2012. I will be placing Christmas orders soon as my last order will be the end of November 2012. Please let me know if you need anything for your gift giving needs.

We will continue with other fund raising projects and appreciate your support.

In gassho,
Donna Dubbelboer

Jodo Shinshu Adult Dharma classes

Izumi Sensei will be starting an adult Dharma classes to further study some of the specific teachings to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. This is an extension of the introduction to Buddhism series held last fall. There will be a series of 8 classes starting October 5th and occurring every other Friday from then on. The first 4 sessions will occur on Oct 5th, and 19th and November 2nd and 16th.

The group will meet at 7 PM in the boardroom at the temple. There will be advanced reading material handed out before each session. If you are interested in attending please contact Izumi Sensei.

JSBTC Day Donation Solicitation

BTSA will be observing Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Day at its regular Sunday service on Oct. 14. The annual event commemorates the founding of Jodo Shinshu in Canada more than 100 years ago in Vancouver.

Please consider a donation by making cheques payable to the BTSA, noting it is for JSBTC Day. Proceeds will be sent to the JSBTC headquarters. They are earmarked for propagation purposes. Donated amounts will be included in the annual tax receipts sent out at the end of the year.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Transportation to the temple

The membership committee is trying to make arrangements for transportation available for members wanting to attend Sunday service. We will be continuing the bus service from Taber on Shotsuki Sundays. We are trying to determine if there is interest from seniors who live in one of the senior lodges or complexes in Lethbridge to be picked up by the bus to come to Shotsuki services. If you would like to have rides arranged for you please contact Roland Ikuta. Please notify any potentially interested seniors about the availability of rides and to contact Roland (317-0078).

DHARMA EXCHANGE

The next Dharma exchange will occur on October 21st. The article to be discussed will be left at the entrance to the Hondo. Please pick up the article ahead of time and read it prior to the session. We will be having the discussion in a corner of the multipurpose room during after service refreshments.

Movie night at the Temple

Saturday November 3

Chicken Curry Rice Dinner 6pm

Movie 7:30pm

Please contact Roland Ikuta (317-0078)
if you want to attend the supper.

THE CATS OF MIRIKITANI



This is a documentary about an Japanese American artist who is living on the streets of New York. Eighty year old Jimmy Mirikitani survived the trauma of WW 2 internment camps, Hiroshima and homelessness by creating art. But when 9/11 threatens his life on the New York streets and a local filmmaker brings him to her home, the two embark on a journey to confront Jimmy's painful past.

An intimate exploration of the lingering wounds of the war and the healing power of community and art, this film has won awards at some 20 festivals, including Tribeca, Tokyo, Bermuda, Bologna, Paris, Philadelphia, Sedona and Sun Valley.

"A miracle" New York Magazine

"An irresistible fable of reconciliation and forgiveness" Salon.com



Kids planted bulbs in September. Thank you to Marko Hilgersom for his help with this activity and placing sod for a larger play area.



Meditation sessions at the Temple

The long awaited meditation sessions are now scheduled. These classes will be held on Thursday evening from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. The sessions will be lead by Prof. Rachael Crowder. She is a professor in the department of Social Work. She will be leading 6, one hour sessions on Mindfulness meditation. There will be a donation suggested to be \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members for the 6 sessions.

The first session will be held on November the 1st and will occur on the following 5 Thursday evenings. If anybody is interested in attending please contact Sylvia Oishi at 403-328 -5849.



THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA
children & youth dharma classes



SEPTEMBER marked a return to Dharma class after a two-month summer hiatus. We are off to a busy start with art projects, planting in the garden and a nature walk in the coulees. The month's theme was the changes we see as summer transitions to fall, and that it is continual. "Everything must change".

Thank you to Brenda and Roland Ikuta for leading a lesson in juice-making. Using the crab apples from their tree, they showed the class the process of making apples into juice ...

From picking the apples ...



to washing ...



to sterilizing jars.



Taste testing the apples in their different stages.



Delicious!



UPCOMING PLANS FOR OCT. 7

Class is often divided into two groups (approx. 2-6 and 7-12+ yrs). Younger students will work on nature projects with items collected earlier. Older students will have a discussion group: the theme of change in song lyrics and other mediums, and the idea of gratitude and thanksgiving.

Schedule 光 October & November 2012

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。

OCTOBER: TOBAN 1

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	10:45am Aiki Breathing 1	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 2	3	10:30am Gentle Yoga 4	7pm Adult Dharma Study 5	6
10:30am Shotsuki 2pm 日本語法座 7	10:45am Aiki Breathing 8	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 9	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSA Board Meeting 10	10:30am Gentle Yoga 7pm SAB Choir 11	12	Chow Mein Supper 13
10:30am Regular Service 14	10:45am Aiki Breathing 15	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 16	1:30pm Karaoke 17	10:30am Gentle Yoga 7pm SAB Choir 18	7pm Adult Dharma Study 19	20
10:30am Regular Service 21	10:45am Aiki Breathing 22	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 23	1:30pm Karaoke 24	10:30am Gentle Yoga 7pm SAB Choir 25	26	27
10:30am Regular Service 28	10:45am Aiki Breathing 29	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 30	1:30pm Karaoke 31			

NOVEMBER: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				10:30am Gentle Yoga 5:30pm Meditation 7pm SAB Choir 1	7pm Adult Dharma Study 2	Movie Night 6pm dinner 7:30pm movie 3
10:30am Shotsuki 2pm 日本語法座 4	10:45am Aiki Breathing 5	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 6	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSA Board Meeting 7	10:30am Gentle Yoga 5:30pm Meditation 7pm SAB Choir 8	9	Alberta Buddhist Conference - Calgary 10
10:30am Regular Service 11	10:45am Aiki Breathing 12	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 13	1:30pm Karaoke 14	5:30pm Meditation 7pm SAB Choir 15	7pm Adult Dharma Study 16	17
10:30am Regular Service 18	19	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 20	1:30pm Karaoke 21	5:30pm Meditation 7pm SAB Choir 22	23	24
10:30am Regular Service 25	26	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30pm Youth Taiko 7pm Adult Taiko 27	1:30pm Karaoke 28	5:30pm Meditation 7pm SAB Choir 29	7pm Adult Dharma Study 30	